

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Saturday, December 6, 2014

New Sheriff In Town



President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden applaud as Ashton Carter, Obama's nominee for defense secretary, speaks during the announcement, Friday, Dec. 5, 2014, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

Obama Taps Pentagon Veteran Carter to Lead It

JULIE PACE

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama tapped policy wonk Ashton Carter to oversee the sprawling Defense Department Friday, heralding his new nominee as one

the U.S.' "foremost national security leaders." Obama announced Carter's nomination during a ceremony at the White House.

A Pentagon veteran who is seen as a centrist, Carter is expected to be easily con-

firmed by the Senate, putting him at the helm of a department moving back into military conflict in the Middle East even as it grapples with budget cuts. The leadership shake-up at the Pentagon marks the

only major change Obama has made to his national security team during his second term.

While White House officials haven't fully ruled out other changes, Obama appears highly unlikely to replace

national security adviser Susan Rice or White House chief of staff Denis McDonough, who plays a role in foreign policy.

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UN Environment Agency: Climate costs to poor underestimated

KARL RITTER

Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — The cost to poor countries of adjusting to ever-hotter temperatures will be two or even three times higher than previously thought, the U.N.'s environment agency said Friday — and that assumes a best-case scenario in which greenhouse gas emissions are dramatically reduced.

poor countries say they're not seeing enough cash.

Projecting the annual costs that poor countries will face by 2050 just to adapt, the United Nations Environment Program report deemed the previous estimate of \$70 billion to \$100 billion "a significant underestimate." It had been based on 2010 World Bank numbers.

The report says new studies indicate the costs will

They need help to protect their shorelines, crops, and freshwater resources from rising seas, droughts and floods.

"We know what needs to be done. We just need the dollars or euros," said Jumeau, who is also spokesman for small island states. The Seychelles is struggling to protect beaches from eroding, freshwater wells from drying up and coral



Melting blocks of ice float near the Pastoruri glacier in Huaraz, Peru, Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014. Peru's glaciers have lost more than one-fifth of their mass in just three decades, and 70 percent of Peru's 30 million people who inhabit the country's Pacific coastal desert, depend on glacial runoff for hydropower and to irrigate crops, meaning their electricity and long-term food security could be in peril.

(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

"If you don't cut emissions, we're just going to have to ask for more money because the damage is going to be worse," Ronald Jumeau of the Seychelles said at U.N. climate talks.

The report was bound to sharpen disputes in Lima over who pays the bills for the impacts of global warming, whose primary cause is the burning of coal, oil and gas but which also includes deforestation. It has long been the thorniest issue at the U.N. negotiations, now in their 20th round.

Rich countries have pledged to help the developing world convert to clean energy and adapt to shifts in global weather that are already adversely affecting crops, human health and economies. But

likely be "two to three times higher," possibly even as high as \$500 billion. But that's only if global warming stays below 2 degrees Celsius (3.2 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to pre-industrial times, the limit set in the U.N. talks. Scientists say that would require cuts in greenhouse gas emissions that the world is nowhere near on track to accomplish.

"The report provides a powerful reminder that the potential cost of inaction carries a real price tag," UNEP director Achim Steiner said in a statement.

Climate change impacts, including rising sea levels, shifts in rainfall patterns and more intense heat waves, affect all countries but the latter aren't well equipped to cope.

reefs from being damaged, he said.

There is concern in Latin America that gains against poverty in the past two decades will be reversed due to climate change.

A World Bank study this year found two degrees of warming would cause crop yields in Brazil to drop by 30-70 percent for soy and 50 percent for wheat.

Rich countries have pledged to provide \$100 billion by 2020 to help developing reduce their emissions and adapt to climate change.

They are not on track to deliver. Their governments provided about \$25 billion in adaptation money to developing countries in 2012-2013, the UNEP report said.

France agrees to compensate Holocaust deportees' families

JAMEY KEATEN

MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Thousands of Holocaust survivors and family members in the United States and elsewhere will be entitled to compensation from a \$60 million French-U.S. fund announced Friday — reparations to those deported by France's state rail company SNCF during the Nazi occupation.

As part of the deal, the U.S. government will work to end lawsuits and other compensation claims in U.S. courts against SNCF, which is bidding for lucrative high-speed rail and other contracts in U.S. markets. State legislators in Maryland, New York, Florida and California have tried to punish SNCF for its Holocaust-era actions.

"This is another measure of justice for the harms of one of history's darkest eras," said the U.S. Special Adviser on Holocaust Issues, Stuart Eizenstat, who spent three years working with French officials on the agreement. SNCF transported about 76,000 French Jews to Nazi concentration camps, though experts disagree on its degree of guilt. SNCF has expressed regret for what happened, but argues it had no effective control over operations during the Nazi occupation from 1940 to 1944.

The compensation fund will be financed by the French government and managed by the United States. The accord will be signed Monday in Washington, but it still must get approval from the French Parliament, which could take months.

France's government has already paid more than \$6 billion in reparations, but only to French citizens and certain deportees. The new accord is to help compensate Americans, Israelis and some others who were not eligible for other French reparations programs.

Patrizianna Sparacino-Thiellay, a French ambassador for human rights who worked closely with Eizenstat on the accord, said "hundreds" of people in the U.S. are eligible under the new fund as direct survivors or spouses, and several thousand could be eligible as heirs.

The money should break down to about \$100,000 each for survivors and tens of thousands of dollars for spouses, said Eizenstat.

Only in 1995 did France acknowledge a direct role in the Holocaust, when then-President Jacques Chirac said the state bore responsibility. Subsequent compensation programs paid out compensation worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

The German government has paid around 70 billion euros (\$85 billion) in compensation for Nazi crimes, mainly to Jewish survivors.

France already has international accords with four countries — Poland, Belgium, Britain and the Czech Republic — over compensation for deportation victims. Friday's deal aims to fill the remaining gaps in justice for others also affected.

Although SNCF is not a party to the agreement, the company will contribute \$4 million over the next five years to fund Holocaust memorials and museums in the U.S., Israel and France, according to Eizenstat.

The French government has pledged to encourage French lawmakers to approve the deal, Eizenstat said. Patrizianna Sparacino-Thiellay said the French government wanted to finish the deal by year-end in part for symbolic reasons: France is hosting several events marking 70 years since the Allies liberated France from the Nazis in 1944.

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Obama taps Pentagon veteran Carter to lead it



President Barack Obama shares a laugh with Ashton Carter, his nominee for defense secretary, Friday, Dec. 5, 2014, during the announcement in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

Continued from Front

In discussing the Pentagon post with Carter, Obama said he emphasized the need "to make smart choices, precisely because there are so many challenges out there." Carter, a widely respected physicist and academic, has won praise from some Republicans, suggesting he'll face a smooth Senate confirmation. Carter would replace Chuck Hagel, who resigned under pressure last week after a bumpy tenure.

Hagel did not attend Friday's event. A defense official said the outgoing secretary did not want to distract from Carter's nomination, though the two men did speak by phone Friday.

The level of control the White House has exerted

over the Pentagon in particular has rankled those who have held the agency's top job before Carter. Former Defense Secretaries Robert Gates and Leon Panetta have both spoken extensively about what they saw as White House micromanagement and meddling in Pentagon affairs. In brief remarks Friday, Carter signaled that he would not shy from expressing his opinion in his new role.

"If confirmed in this job, I pledge to you my most candid strategic advice," he said to Obama.

While the White House has denied that it has negatively interfered with the Pentagon, officials made clear this week that Obama had no plans to loosen his reins on the Defense Department.

"The president of the Unit-

ed States is the commander in chief and sits at the top of the chain of command," Obama spokesman Josh Earnest said. "That means the president bears significant responsibility for what happens at the Pentagon and the Department of Defense."

Sen. Deb Fischer, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, was among the Republicans

who praised Carter's nomination, while also taking issue with Obama's national security strategy and decision-making.

Fischer said that while Carter "brings to the position impressive experience," she remains concerned that "the administration continues to lack a coherent strategy to counter an array of global crises."

Sen. John McCain, a Re-

publican and a fierce critic of Obama's foreign policy, also praised Carter, but said he hoped the new nominee "fully understands that, as previous secretaries of defense have strongly attested, he will likely have limited influence over the tight circle around the president who apparently control the entire strategic decision-making process." □

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Congress sends Obama bill to stop Nazi benefits

RICHARD LARDNER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bill that would block suspected Nazi war criminals from receiving U.S. government pension benefits is heading to President Barack Obama for his signature. By voice vote late Thursday, the Senate gave final congressional approval to a measure that would shut a loophole that allowed suspected Nazis to be paid millions of dollars in benefits, clearing it for the White House. Under the No Social Security for Nazis Act, the benefits, known as Social Security, would be terminated for Nazi suspects who have lost their American citizenship, a step called denaturalization. U.S. law currently

requires a higher threshold — a final order of deportation — before the benefits can be stopped.

The legislation was introduced after an Associated Press investigation published in October revealed that Social Security benefits have been paid to dozens of former Nazis after they were forced out of the United States.

The House unanimously approved the bill on Tuesday on a 420-0 vote.

The legislation united Republicans and Democrats, who expressed outrage that U.S. taxpayers were unwittingly financing the retirement of individuals who participated in the Third Reich's atrocities during World War II.

"Coming ahead of the



Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, left, talks with Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa on Capitol Hill in Washington. A bill that would block suspected Nazi war criminals from receiving Social Security benefits is heading to President Barack Obama for his signature. Grassley and Hatch have demanded that the Obama administration provide Congress with records explaining how suspected Nazis received the payments and the role the Justice Department played in the program.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

70th anniversaries of the liberation of the Nazi death camps, the adoption of this bill by Congress sends an important signal: Nazi criminals who illegally obtained U.S. citizenship after World War II by lying about their past and who escaped prosecution should not benefit from American taxpayers' support," said Robert Singer, chief executive officer of the World Jewish Congress.

The White House said Friday that it agreed with the thrust of the legislation and is currently reviewing the bill. A Justice Department spokesman, Peter Carr, said the department supports the goal of terminating federal public benefits for individuals found to have participated in the Nazi persecution during World War II. The Social Security Administration did not immediately respond to AP's request for comment on the bill. However, the agency has previously said former Nazis should not be receiving benefits.

AP's investigation found that the Justice Department used a legal loophole to persuade Nazi suspects to leave the U.S. in exchange for Social Security benefits. If they agreed to go voluntarily, or simply fled the country before being deported, they could keep their benefits. □

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Family of boy shot dead by Ohio officer files suit

CLEVELAND (AP) — The family of a 12-year-old who had a pellet gun when he was shot by a Cleveland police officer filed a wrongful death lawsuit Friday, saying two officers acted recklessly when they confronted the boy in a terrifying manner and fired within seconds.

The federal lawsuit filed against the city and the two officers also said they

waited four minutes before anyone provided medical help to Tamir Rice.

The shooting has sparked protests across Cleveland and is one of a number of recent deaths involving police across the United States that have drawn public outrage.

Surveillance video released by police shows Tamir being shot within two seconds of a patrol car

stopping beside him at a park on Nov. 22. It shows the boy reaching in his waistband for what police later discovered was an airsoft gun, which shoots nonlethal plastic projectiles. He died the next day. Police were responding to an emergency call about a gun at a playground. Police have said officer Tim Loehmann believed the boy had a real firearm. The

officer's father has said his son had no other choice. A grand jury will consider whether charges are merited.

"Young boys playing with replica guns are commonplace in America and police are expected to approach them safely if an investigation is warranted, not shoot them dead within two seconds," said the lawsuit filed in U.S. District

Court.

A spokesman for the city declined to comment on the lawsuit. Court documents did not list the name of Loehmann's attorney. On Thursday, the U.S. Justice Department released findings from a nearly two-year investigation of Cleveland police, which found its officers use excessive and unnecessary force far too often. □

Rolling Stone magazine casts doubt on rape story

FREDERIC J. FROMMER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rolling Stone is casting doubt on the account it published of a young woman who says she was gang-raped at a fraternity party at the University of Virginia, a widely discussed article that put a spotlight on the issue of sexual assault on college campuses in the U.S.

A statement posted to the magazine's website Friday said "our trust in her was misplaced." The lengthy article, published last month, detailed what it called a hidden culture of sexual violence at that university.

The woman has been identified publicly only as "Jackie."

The statement said that because of the sensitive nature of Jackie's story, Rolling Stone decided to honor her request not to contact the men she claimed organized and participated in



University of Virginia students walk to campus past the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity house at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va. Rolling Stone is casting doubt on the account it published of a young woman who says she was gang-raped at a Phi Kappa Psi fraternity party at the school, saying there now appear to be discrepancies in the student's account.

(AP Photo/Steve Helber)

the attack. That prompted criticism from other news organizations.

"We were trying to be sensitive to the unfair shame

and humiliation many women feel after a sexual assault and now regret the decision to not contact the alleged assailants to get

their account," the magazine's statement said. "We are taking this seriously and apologize to anyone who was affected by the story."

University President Teresa Sullivan has asked Charlottesville police to investigate the reported gang rape at the Phi Kappa Psi house. The fraternity has surrendered its fraternal agreement with the school and suspended all chapter activities. "Our purpose is to find the truth in any matter and that's what we are looking for here," the police department said in an emailed statement Friday. "These articles do not change our focus moving forward."

The school also had suspended activities at all campus fraternal organizations because of the story.

The statement posted on Rolling Stone's website and signed by managing editor Will Dana said only that those discrepancies in the woman's account became apparent "in the face of new information." It does not detail that information. □

Phone call: German student bleeding everywhere

LISA BAUMANN

Associated Press

MISSOULA, Montana (AP)

— The girlfriend of a Montana man charged with killing a German exchange student in his garage held her face in her hands on the witness stand Friday as the court listened to the emergency call she made the night of the shooting. During the call, Janelle Pflager said 17-year-old Diren Dede was bleeding from "everywhere" and lying face down "barely breathing" after Markus

Kaarma shot him.

She said Kaarma didn't help her as she tried to aid the mortally wounded Dede. He died a short time later at a Missoula hospital. Pflager's testimony came during the second day of Kaarma's deliberate homicide trial.

Prosecutors allege Kaarma baited the victim into sneaking into his garage early April 27 and killed him with four shotgun blasts after being alerted by a motion detector. He says he fired the shots out of fear

that his family and property might be harmed following previous burglaries at his home.

Pflager testified a day earlier that she bought a baseball bat for safety and set up multiple motion detectors fearing the burglars would return. She said Kaarma brought a shotgun upstairs from the basement, loaded it and kept it in the dining room.

Pflager said she planned to use it to hold intruders at bay and said she thought that was Kaarma's thinking

about the gun.

Deputy County Attorney Jennifer Clark said Kaarma gave no warning before firing into the darkened garage and paused between the third and fourth shots. Days before the shooting, Kaarma had gone for a haircut and three women from the shop testified Thursday that they heard him say he had been waiting up nights to shoot an intruder.

Hair stylist Tanya Colby said he later told her: "I'm not kidding, you're seriously

going to see this on the news."

Colby also said Kaarma believed police weren't doing anything about the burglaries.

Defense attorney Paul Ryan said Montana's "stand-your-ground" law allows homeowners to protect their residences with deadly force when they believe they are going to be harmed.

Kaarma didn't know whether the person inside the garage was armed, Ryan said. □

American holiday shoppers savvier in their strategies

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—Shoppers are getting smarter.

The start of the holiday shopping season shows a simple discount, even a big one, isn't always enough to lure people to buy. Shoppers can sniff out a legitimate deal from a fake one and are even leaving items in online shopping carts as reminders to look for a better bargain.

Shoppers with more knowledge and new patience may have contributed to the less-than-stellar turnout over Thanksgiving weekend, the traditional kickoff of holiday shopping.

Stores heavily discounted holiday merchandise days and even weeks before Black Friday. That gave shoppers plenty of opportunities to avoid the big lines.

That seemed to backfire over Thanksgiving weekend. The endless stream of sales pitches

made many shoppers confident that heavy discounts would continue right on through Christmas.

That may be a self-fulfilling prophecy. The lukewarm start to the season means retailers will watch the next

er is so much smarter," he said.

ShopperTrak, a Chicago-based consumer analytics company that tracks data at malls and stores but not online sites, said earlier this week that sales for the four-day weekend

day after Thanksgiving, according to IBM Digital Analytics Benchmark. But that wasn't as strong as was expected. The National Federation still projects sales will rise 4.1 percent for November and December, which accounts for on average 20 percent of the industry's total sales. But analysts expect a retail slugfest over winning those dollars.

Here are some of the ways people are shopping smarter:

DISCOUNTS AREN'T ENOUGH

Shoppers are addicted to deals, but it's taking more and more to get their attention.

Twenty percent off? Better throw in free shipping, too.

"They're acutely aware of all the elements of value," said the retail trade group's CEO Matt Shay.

Free shipping has been a top factor for online shoppers in deciding whether to buy. Ryan Urban, co-founder of Bounce Exchange, a technology company that works with more than 700 retailers' websites, says shoppers are converted to buyers at a rate 10 to 15 percent lower on websites that don't offer any free shipping.

Target Corp. is already attributing its sales surge online in part to its move to drop shipping fees for all online purchases until Dec 20. Thanksgiving saw a 40 percent surge in Target's online sales and was its biggest online sales day ever.

ON TARGET

Consumers got more purposeful over this holiday weekend.

According to C. Britt Beemer, chairman of America's Research Group, a consumer research firm, 75 percent who went shopping on Thanksgiving and Black Friday wanted only the so-called doorbusters, deeply discounted specials intended to lure

in customers; last year, that figure was 49.9 percent.

Stores hope those items, sometimes priced so low the retailer loses money on them, will result in impulse spending once shoppers are in the door.

Trying to push more online sales also may be a factor in reducing impulse purchases.

Marshal Cohen, NPD's group's chief industry analyst, estimates 45 percent of store shopping is done on impulse, compared with 25 percent online.

Some retailers did say they saw shoppers throwing extra items in their carts — CEOs of both Toys R Us and Target noted it.

NO RUSH

Shoppers are not in a hurry to attack their holiday buying for many reasons.

NPD's Cohen said that other than gadgets like Apple's iPhone 6 or specific toys like the Elsa doll tied to Disney's "Frozen" movie, there are no hot items that are hard to find. So shoppers know they can find better deals later in the season.

"There's no urgency to buy," said Cohen. "So consumers are in the driver's seat."

Increasing, shoppers are using website shopping carts to store items, not to immediately buy them, but as a reminder to shop around for better deals, according to Bounce Exchange's Urban and others.

Paul Wolke, a 46-year-old photographer from Washington, N.J., started looking online a day before Thanksgiving. His wish list: accessories for a gym in his basement. He threw four items like hand weights and pull cables in his Amazon.com cart — but hasn't bought them.

"I'm using the Amazon cart almost as a shopping list with prices," he said. □



A Target shopper uses her iPhone to compare prices at Wal-Mart while shopping after midnight in South Portland, Maine. Savvy shoppers are using the vast information at their fingertips to wring ever-better deals or offers.

(AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

few weeks closely and could roll out more promotions than planned, says Dave Bassuk, managing director and co-head of the retail practice at AlixPartners. "Retailers' greed hurt them, and the consum-

ers slipped 2.1 percent to \$21.76 billion. Cyber Monday deals are also being stretched out into "Cyber Week" and even earlier, crimping sales on the day itself. Sales rose 8.5 percent that day, the Mon-



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US Financial Front:

Job gains put US on pace for best growth since '99

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The resurgence in U.S. hiring accelerated in November and put 2014 on track to be the healthiest year for job growth since 1999.

The gain of a robust 321,000 jobs — the most in nearly three years — put further distance between a strengthening American economy and struggling nations throughout the developed world. The job market still isn't yet fully healthy. But its steady improvement raises the likelihood that the Federal Reserve will start raising interest rates from record lows by mid-2015.

The unemployment rate remained at a six-year low of 5.8 percent, the Labor Department said Friday.

"These were boom-like numbers," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. "They indicate that the U.S. economy is on very solid ground."

Friday's report also raised hopes that Americans' pay might finally be starting to increase after barely budging since the Great Recession began seven years ago. The average hourly wage rose 9 cents to \$24.66, the biggest gain in 17 months.

Fed Chair Janet Yellen has cited stagnant wages as a key reason to keep rates low. Higher wages could

lead to higher prices, and the Fed might feel compelled to raise rates to limit inflation.

Still, over the past 12 months, hourly pay has risen just 2.1 percent, barely above the 1.7 percent inflation rate. And Scott Anderson, an economist at Bank of the West, noted that inflation remains below the Fed's 2 percent target rate and will likely remain tame because of lower energy prices. That might give the Fed some leeway to wait.

The Fed has kept its benchmark rate near zero for six years to encourage more borrowing and spending. Investors welcomed Friday's positive news: The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 69 points in late-afternoon trading. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.31 percent, from 2.25 percent, a sign that investors likely foresee a Fed rate increase fairly soon.

So far this year, the economy has gained 2.65 million jobs. With one month to go, 2014 is already the best year for hiring in 15 years. That is partly a reflection of the anemic pace of hiring for much of the recovery. Only this year, five years after the recession officially ended, have job gains reached levels historically associated with a strong economy.

Even now, the job market

remains far from fully recovered. There are 6.9 million people with part-time jobs, for example, who would prefer full-time work — up from 4.1 million before the recession.

And millions have given up looking for jobs. That

unemployment, which includes involuntary part-time workers and people who have stopped looking for a job, stands at 11.4 percent.

In addition, the number of unemployed people who have been out of work for

years since the recession began," said Elise Gould, an economist at the liberal Economic Policy Institute. Even among the Americans who have found jobs, many are earning less than they did before the recession.

One of them is Stephen Tripp, 40, who's starting a job this month in the Minneapolis area as a cook at Aramark, a corporate food-services provider, after years of intermittent work at country clubs and restaurants. The job pays much less than the \$75,000 he made as an executive chef in 2007.

"I'm kind of taking steps back in the hopes of moving forward," Tripp said.

Hiring last month was boosted by seasonal hiring related to the holiday shopping season. Retailers added 50,200 jobs, the most in 11 months. Transportation and warehousing gained 16,700.

Shipping companies have announced ambitious plans, after some holiday gifts that were ordered online arrived late last year. □



Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration technology students, from left, Micahel Jennings, David Ellerby, Terry Foy and Roger Saunders, use a simulator in the classroom at the Cape Fear Community College downtown campus in Wilmington, N.C. The Labor Department released employment data for November on Friday, Dec. 5, 2014.

(AP Photo/The Star-News, Mike Spencer)

has been a factor in the declining unemployment rate: Once people stop seeking a job, they're no longer counted as unemployed.

A broader measure of

more than six months is 2.8 million, more than double its pre-recession level.

"At this rate, we won't return to pre-recession labor market health until October 2016 — nearly nine

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Bebe Inc. discloses data breach

BRISBANE, Calif. (AP) —

Bebe stores Inc. said Friday that it recently detected suspicious activity on computers that run the payment processing system used for its stores, making it the latest company to disclose a data breach.

The women's clothing and accessories company said it hired a computer security firm to block the attack and prevent it from continuing.

The disclosure means Bebe has joined a growing group of companies hit by data breaches. They include Home Depot Inc., Target Inc., Michaels, SuperValu Inc., Neiman Mar-

cus and others. Bebe currently runs 175 retail stores, including its on-line store, and 35 outlet stores.

The company said that its investigation to date suggests the attack was on data from payment cards swiped in its U.S., Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands stores between Nov. 8 and Nov. 26.

The data may have included cardholder name, account number, expiration date, and verification code.

Purchases made through bebe's website, mobile site/app, in Canada or in its international stores were not affected, the compa-

ny said.

The retailer advised customers that used a payment card at a U.S., Puerto Rico or U.S. Virgin Islands store during the time frame to review their account statements for any unauthorized activity. If they see any unauthorized charges, they should contact the bank that issued the card.

In addition, bebe said that it is offering free credit monitoring services to customers who made a purchase using a payment card at a U.S., Puerto Rico or U.S. Virgin Islands store during the specified time frame. □



Agil Alhaddi stacks roof rails for the 2015 Ford F-150 at the Dearborn Truck Plant in Dearborn, Mich. The Commerce Department released factory orders for October on Friday, Dec. 5, 2014.

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

US factory orders drop 0.7% in October

M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders to U.S. factories slipped for a third straight month in October and would have fallen even more except for a big jump in defense orders.

A key category that tracks business investment spending fell for a second straight month.

Factory orders fell 0.7 percent in October following declines of 0.5 percent in September and 10 percent in August, the Commerce Department reported Friday.

Demand for machinery, computers and primary metals were all down. An important category that is

viewed as a proxy for business investment plans fell 1.6 percent following a 1.1 percent decline in September.

The overall decline would have been larger except for a surge in military orders, which jumped 21.2 percent in October, reflecting strong demand for military aircraft. Economists expect the recent weakness will be temporary.

Orders for durable goods, items expected to last at least three years, edged up a slight 0.3 percent following two months of declines but excluding defense, orders would have fallen 0.7 percent. Orders for nondurable goods such as chemicals

and paper, fell 1.5 percent in October after a 0.2 percent drop in September. Some of that decline reflects falling energy prices.

Orders for transportation equipment rose 3.4 percent in October, helped by a small 0.6 percent gain in demand for motor vehicles and a 45.3 percent surge in orders for military airplanes. Orders for commercial aircraft edged down 0.1 percent in October.

Demand for machinery dropped 1.4 percent, orders for computers were down 12.7 percent and orders for primary metals such as steel fell 2.4 percent.

Economists say these declines will be temporary. □

US trade deficit drops to \$43.4 billion in October

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. trade deficit fell slightly in October as exports rebounded while oil imports dipped to the lowest level in five years.

The deficit edged down 0.4 percent to \$43.4 billion, a drop from a revised \$43.6 billion in September, the Commerce Department reported Friday. Exports climbed 1.2 percent to \$197.5 billion, recovering after a September dip. Imports were up as well, rising 0.9 percent to \$241 billion but that increase was tempered by a 0.6 percent fall in imports of petroleum, which dropped to the lowest level since November 2009. The average price of a barrel of oil dipped to \$88.47, the lowest point since February 2011.

Through October, the deficit is running 4.8 percent below the same period in 2013. A lower deficit provides a boost to economic growth.

Paul Dales, senior economist at Capital Economics, said that trade, which added to overall growth in the July-September period may be a slight negative in the current quarter as imports end up growing faster than exports.

He said that the October performance suggests that exports will grow at an 8 percent rate in the fourth quarter while imports will grow at a slightly faster 10 percent rate. Dales said this could result in overall economic growth coming in close to 2.5 percent in the fourth quarter, down from third quarter growth of 3.9 percent.

The lower trade deficit so far this year reflects the gains made in U.S. export sales, which have climbed to record levels, giving a boost to American manufacturers. But there is a concern that economic weakness in Europe and other key export markets could hold back future

gains in exports. The U.S. dollar has also been rising in value against other major currencies and this could jeopardize export sales as well by making American products more expensive in overseas markets.

The big drop in global oil prices in recent months helps to lower America's foreign oil bill but it also depresses export sales since a U.S. energy production boom has been pushing U.S. petroleum exports to record levels.

For October, petroleum imports dropped to \$26.2 billion while exports of petroleum were down 11.1 percent to \$11 billion, a fall that reflected lower prices.

For the year, U.S. energy exports are up 12.1 percent compared to last year, putting them on track to hit a record, even with the recent fall in prices.

The politically sensitive deficit with China narrowed by 8.5 percent to \$32.6 billion in October, down from a monthly record of \$35.6 billion in September. The release of the new Apple iPhone likely fueled much of the surge in imports during the month.

The deficit with China is on track to set another record for the full year, creating more pressure for Congress and the Obama administration to curb what critics contend are unfair tactics such as currency manipulation that they contend China is employing to gain trade advantages over U.S. companies.

The widening trade gap with China is coming at a time when the Obama administration hopes to finally get Congress to approve the fast-track authority it needs to wrap up a major 12-nation trade agreement with Pacific Rim countries known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership. □

Ukraine tests ground for lasting cease-fire plan

PETER LEONARD

JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — A one-day truce announced by Ukraine's president will serve as a test to see if the fighting in eastern Ukraine against Russian-backed separatists can truly be halted, a military spokesman said Friday.

President Petro Poroshenko's declaration of a break next Tuesday in the fighting marks a new attempt to revive a September cease-fire deal that has been violated almost daily.

Spokesman Andriy Lysenko said the "day of silence" would demonstrate the degree of coordination possible within rebel forces — an apparent reference to reports of schisms among the separatists.

Speaking in Basel, Switzerland, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the truce Tuesday could help build a more lasting peace. Lavrov said it was brokered with the help of Russian military experts at Poroshenko's invitation and "is linked to create a dividing line between the (warring) parties."

He also told reporters on the sidelines of a meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe that he sees an "increasing" role for OSCE's special monitoring team in Ukraine. "We will be in contact with both Ukrainian forces and the rebels to persuade everyone to respect the agreements, as well as everything else that was agreed upon in Minsk," Lavrov said, referring to the little-respected cease-fire agreement signed in the capital of Belarus in September. The United States, European Union, Germany and many other Western nations strongly criticized



Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin speaks during a news conference at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) ministerial meeting at the Basel Exhibition Center, in Basel, Switzerland, Friday, Dec. 5, 2014.

(AP Photo/Keystone,Laurent Gillieron)

Russia's role in the Ukraine conflict during the security group's two-day meeting that drew 53 ministers and 1,300 delegates.

The Ukraine conflict dominated the year of the OSCE chairmanship for Swiss President and Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter. He told ministers and a concluding news conference that enough "major differences" remained to prevent the group — which includes Russia — from adopting a consensus statement on Ukraine.

He said that's the case, even as OSCE has found broader agreement on ways to deal with foreign terrorists, kidnapping ransom demands, small arms and light weapons, disaster risks, corruption, anti-Semitism and violence against women.

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A man walks past a wall with nationalist art in Pyongyang, North Korea. — Two-thirds of the United Nations Security Council on Friday requested that North Korea's human rights situation be placed on the council agenda for debate—the first step toward a possible referral to the International Criminal Court.

(Sharon LaFraniere/The New York Times)

AP NewsBreak:

UN set to debate North Korea rights

CARA ANNA

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Two-thirds of the United Nations Security Council on Friday requested that North Korea's human rights situation be placed on the council agenda for debate—the first step toward a possible referral to the International Criminal Court.

The letter, submitted Friday morning to the current council president, says North Korea's human rights violations "threaten to have a destabilizing impact on the region." The U.N.'s most powerful body rarely considers a country's human rights situation alone, and the letter is a strong statement that the signers see the issue as one affecting international peace and security.

The letter, which was shown to The Associated Press, is signed by 10 of the 15 council members, including the United States. North Korea's allies China and Russia did not sign.

Placing this issue on the council's agenda is the latest step in growing international pressure this year on North Korea over an issue it has long disdained. A U.N. commission of inquiry report early this year detailed widespread human rights abuses in the impoverished but nuclear-armed country and warned that leader Kim Jong Un could be held accountable. And last month, the General Assembly's human rights committee approved a resolution calling on the Security Council to refer North Korea's human rights situation to the ICC.

"We are opposed to the agenda discussion in the U.N. Security Council," a North Korean diplomat told the AP, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

Japanese Ambassador Motohide Yoshikawa, whose country co-sponsored the recent resolution, told the AP that putting the issue on

the council's agenda is the first step toward an ICC referral. "It's very much welcome," he said.

Even though permanent council member China is likely to use its veto power against an ICC referral, regular Security Council debate of North Korea's human rights will elevate the issue.

The letter requests "consideration of this agenda item as early as possible in December."

Council members have hurried to make this request before end of the year, when five of the current members are replaced.

Australia, one of the countries whose term on the council is due to expire, has energetically pursued getting this issue onto the council's agenda before it leaves its council seat. The other countries signing the letter are Chile, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, South Korea, Rwanda, Britain and the United States. □

China arrests ex-security chief for corruption case

CHRIS BUCKLEY

© 2014 New York Times

HONG KONG - Zhou Yongkang, the once-feared head of China's domestic security, has been expelled from the Communist Party and arrested, the official state news agency announced early Saturday, disclosing a barrage of charges that included bribetaking, helping family members and cronies plunder government assets, and leaking official secrets.

The announcement signaled the biggest move so far in President Xi Jinping's two-year campaign to curb graft and malfeasance in the party hierarchy. Zhou, 72, became the first member of the elite Politburo Standing Committee, retired or active, to face criminal investigation on suspicion of corruption.

The decision by the Communist Party Politburo, a council of 25 senior officials, to expel Zhou and place him under a legal investigation made it all but certain that he would face trial, conviction and a heavy sentence from one of the party-run courts that were once part of his political fief. The Xinhua news agency, which issued the announcement, said the Politburo had made the decision Friday. "Zhou Yongkang's actions were totally in contravention of the party's essence and mission," said the report, citing the Politburo decision.

"This has severely damaged the party's image, and brought major damage to the affairs of the party and the people." Zhou stepped down from power in November 2012, at the same congress that appointed Xi the party's leader. For five years starting in 2007, Zhou held a seat on the Politburo Standing Committee, the party's top decision-making body, and he ran a committee overseeing the police and domestic security forces, as well as courts, prosecutors and prisons. Soon after Zhou's retirement, Xi and his allies started corruption investigations that targeted Zhou's bases of power, especially Sichuan province, in the southwest, and the country's biggest oil and gas conglomerate, the China National Petroleum Corp., where Zhou had risen to become a general manager.

State news outlets have said the party's investigation of Zhou, which was announced in July, showed Xi's determination to eradicate graft that had taken deep root in the government over previous decades.

But the charges now revealed against Zhou also appear likely to alarm people, because they suggest that China's police and other domestic security agencies were controlled by a deeply corrupt politician.

The investigators found that Zhou "exploited his position to obtain unlawful gains for multiple people, and directly or indirectly through his family took massive bribes," the Xinhua report said. In addition, the report said, Zhou "exploited his powers to help relatives, mistresses and friends make massive earnings through their business activities, creating massive losses for state-owned assets." Zhou also disclosed party and state secrets and traded favors and money for sex with multiple women, the report said. □



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Chechen leader: militants' families to be deported



Local people react as they come to view the scene of a gun battle outside a damaged school in the center of Grozny, Russia, Friday, Dec. 5, 2014. Security forces in the capital of Russia's North Caucasus republic of Chechnya stormed two buildings yesterday, Dec. 4, including a school, during fierce gun battles with militants that left at least 19 dead, authorities said.

(AP Photo/Musa Sadulayev)

MOSCOW (AP) — Following a rebel raid that left 25 people dead, Chechnya's Kremlin-backed strongman

said Friday the families of rebels who take part in killings will now be punished by being deported and

having their houses destroyed.

Thursday's clashes in Grozny dented a carefully

nurtured image of stability created by Chechnya's regional leader Ramzan Kadyrov after two separatist conflicts. The violence raised fears of more attacks in Chechnya and widening unrest in the rest of Russia's volatile North Caucasus region.

Kadyrov, who has relied on his feared security force of former rebels like himself to pacify the province, said he would avenge the deaths of 14 police officers, including his relative, who died in clashes with the Islamic rebels. He said 11 attackers were killed and 36 policemen were wounded. Earlier official reports had said 10 police officers and 10 rebels were killed.

In a message Thursday on his Instagram account,

which Kadyrov uses to issue public statements, he said that "the time when they said that parents can't be held accountable for the action of their sons and daughters has come to an end."

He warned that a father who sees that his son has joined the rebels should report him to the authorities or stop him by any other means before he spills blood.

"If a militant in Chechnya kills a policeman or any other person, the militant's family will be immediately banished from Chechnya without the right to come back, and their house will be razed to the ground," Kadyrov said. He said he wouldn't care about criticism from rights activists.

IS fighters besiege crucial Syrian base

BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Muslim militants pushed forward in their offensive on a major military air base in eastern Syria Friday capturing a nearby village in an attempt to take one of President Bashar Assad's last outposts in a province that borders Iraq, activists said. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the Local Coordination Committees say clashes continued for the second day around the air base just outside the contested eastern city of Deir el-Zour.

The Observatory said fighters from the Islamic State group captured the strategic village of Jafra reaching the fence of the sprawling air base.

The Observatory, which

has a network of activists around the country, said the fighting that started with an Islamic State offensive early Thursday has killed 30 government troops and 27 jihadi fighters.

The key military air base gives government warplanes a hub from which to bomb IS-held cities and towns across much of eastern Syria. For the Islamic State group, capturing the airport would eliminate the main pocket of resistance in the area and provide a major morale and propaganda boost after a string of setbacks in recent weeks.

Friday's fighting in Deir el-Zour came as a Sunni militant commander in Syria who has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group threatened to "retaliate" against Lebanese

Shiites and families of Lebanese soldiers over the arrest of his wife and two children in Lebanon, according to a new militant posting.

The threat underscores how tiny Lebanon, with its own Sunni-Shiite sectarian tensions and divisions over neighboring Syria's civil war, is increasingly being pulled into the battle with the Islamic State group, which has captured much of Syria and Iraq.

The video statement by the Sunni militant, Abu Ali al-Shishani — whose real name is Anas Sharkas, according to Lebanese authorities — also said that mediation efforts for the release of more than 20 Lebanese soldiers held captive since August by IS and al-Qaida-linked militants in Syria have stopped, until his family is freed. □

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IMF head warns of bumpy road for Latin America

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Latin America faces a rocky road ahead despite social and economic achievements in recent years, the head of the International Monetary Fund said Friday. IMF director Christine Lagarde said that for two decades, most Latin American nations have achieved low inflation, fiscal discipline, and financial stability.

"These economies thrived because of their sound,

rule-based policy frameworks, rising commodity prices, and favorable global financial conditions," Lagarde said at a regional summit in Santiago.

Despite impressive achievements, "the road ahead looks increasingly bumpy" for the region's economies, she said.

Lagarde said Latin America's outlook will now be influenced by shifting economic and financial condi-

tions worldwide. She said that while the U.S. appears on the path to recovery, prospects for the eurozone countries are uncertain and the outlook for China has cooled.

Putting extra pressure on Latin American economies, commodity prices that lifted the region for more than a decade are now falling and the era of easy financing will soon end, said Lagarde.

She said that regional economic growth is expected to remain at 1.3 percent this year and 2.2 percent in 2015. Latin America must now invest more in structural reforms in education and infrastructure to lift productivity and create economic diversification, the IMF chief said. Lagarde said Latin America's middle class had grown by about 50 percent since 2003, partly

because of a reduction in labor income inequality, including through rising minimum wages. Improved healthcare and education have also helped reduce inequality in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay by 10 to 20 percent between 2000 and 2007, she said. But social indicators remain weaker, and inequality much higher, than in comparable regions, Lagarde added. □

No strings attached: Brazil nudists get Rio beach

JENNY BARCHFIELD

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Pedro Ribeiro lives just one block away from Copacabana beach, one of the world's most celebrated stretches of golden sand. But almost every weekend he drives nearly three hours to soak up the sun on his own terms — in the buff.

Following a two-decade battle Ribeiro helped spearhead as the head of a local nudist association, Rio de Janeiro has its first beach for nudists, which may surprise some given the city's renown for its hedonistic Carnival celebrations and anything-goes attitude.

Abrico beach, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) west of central Rio, was officially made a nudist beach last month.

While Brazilian beachwear may be as close as one can get to being nude while ostensibly clothed, for Brazilians those tiny



Erica Menezes de Oliveira prepares a drink as her husband Carlos Eduardo grabs some ice on Abrico beach, recently designated as nudist after a 20-year-battle, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014. The city renown worldwide for its wild Carnival celebrations featuring near-naked samba dancers has finally gotten its first official nudist beach.

(AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

spandex triangles covering private parts make all the difference.

Nudism outside of Carnival parades is widely frowned upon in Brazil. On the more

than 7,400 kilometers (4,600 miles) of coastline, there are just eight official nudist beaches, now including Rio's Abrico.

That's compared to over

200 nude recreation areas in the U.S. under the care of the American Association for Nude Recreation, and even more common nudism in Europe.

"It's still very taboo. Most people here continue to mix up nudism and free love," said Ribeiro, as he strolled the sand in his birthday suit, accessorized with a cap to shield his head from the sun. "In Rio, you have Carnival celebrations with nude or nearly nude people parading in the samba schools. But Rio residents only accept that during Carnival."

Surrounded by tropical vegetation, Abrico is isolated from neighboring beaches by outsized rock formations. Because of its seclusion, Abrico has been drawing nudists since the late 1950s, Ribeiro said.

The municipal law passed last month requires police to patrol the beach. But so far none have showed up, according to Ribeiro.

"Back when it was illegal to go naked here, the cops were here all the time, threatening people and shaking them down," he said. □

Philippines braces for arrival of Typhoon Hagupit

AUSTIN RAMZY

© 2014 New York Times

HONG KONG — Parts of the Philippines were preparing Friday for the arrival of a powerful storm blowing off the Pacific Ocean, just over a year after Typhoon Haiyan cut a path of devastation across the island nation. But the new storm, Typhoon Hagupit, was not expected to have Haiyan's destructive power.

On Friday morning, Hagupit was 250 miles off the Philippines, headed west with

maximum sustained winds reaching 130 mph, according to Philippine government meteorologists. It was expected to make landfall Saturday, probably on eastern Samar Island.

Forecasts differed on what path the typhoon would take. Philippine authorities predicted the storm would continue west, while the U.S. Joint Typhoon Warning Center was anticipating a more northerly course that would take Hagupit — or Ruby, as it was being called

in the Philippines — over Manila, the capital.

Agencies reported Friday morning that the storm had weakened. But by evening they indicated that it had strengthened, with the United States warning center classifying Hagupit as a "super typhoon" once again and the Japan Meteorological Agency upgrading the storm to its highest category of "violent."

On Friday, President Benigno S. Aquino III criticized

some local news media outlets for reporting that the incoming storm would be comparable to Typhoon Haiyan, or Yolanda, as it was called in the Philippines. He said there was "no indication or official analysis" supporting that comparison.

Manila and the cities around it are densely populated, and their poor infrastructure means that even modest storms can trigger dangerous flooding. To the south, the region still recov-

ering from Typhoon Haiyan was preparing for the arrival of another powerful storm.

"Everyone, everybody from the people to the local government to the national government, is not taking chances. They're fully mobilizing to prepare before it arrives," said Bradley Mellicker, an International Organization for Migration official who was helping with preparations in the far eastern city of Guiuan, on Samar. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

A Warm and Generous Masha Danki: Loyal Visitors Honored By the Aruba Tourism Authority!



PALM BEACH/EAGLE BEACH

BEACH - Jonathan Boekhoudt with Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure this week to present several loyal island visitors with the honorable titles of Distinguished Visitor and Goodwill Ambassador, for visiting the island for 10-to-19 or 20-or-more consecutive years.

First to be honored were Bernice Paultre and David Jacobs at the Renaissance Suites, as Goodwill Ambassadors. Bernice and David have been calling Aruba their 'home-away-from-home' for 22 consecutive years and have witnessed the island grow in all aspects. They are from New



York and love Aruba especially for the weather and people.

Next to be honored were a festive group of guests from the Costa Linda, including Elisabeth Sabal, who first visited Aruba all the way back in 1968! Also honored were Walter and Kathryn Brooks of Kinderhook, New York, and Anthony and Beverly Mattox of Delaware.

Then at the Paradise Beach Villas, a large group of happy guests were honored for their loyalty to Aruba, including William and Eleanor Kitchin, Garland and Deborah Frers, and

John Naruszewicz. And last but certainly not least, Peter and Maryellen Lafata were honored at the Radisson as Distinguished Visitors! Peter and Maryellen hail from New York and have been coming consecutively every year since 2000. They always stay at the Radisson and love Aruba especially for the people, weather and beaches. Peter is an avid fisherman and loves to go on deep-sea fishing trips with the locals. The ceremony was held in the presence of Germaine, Nunette and Anastacia from the Radisson.

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socks and instruction for first time racers is provided, and our staff oversees every race to ensure individuals are driving safely and obeying the rules. We have 270cc 9-horse power Honda engine Karts that can reach up to 50mph! Age for riding the adults karts is 13 years & up. We also have 160cc 6-horse power Honda Engine Karts for kids of 7-till-12 years old.



Each race is a 10 minute race against the clock. You can receive a score sheet to take home after every race to see what your best lap time was. The score sheet can give you bragging rights to your friends back home so they can see how well you raced on a professional outdoor karting track in Aruba! We have a Special this week: get \$5 off on your second race & 10 dollars off on your third race! Those who would like to race can call for reservations at 583-5278 or pass by at the track for an arrive-and-drive session open Tuesday till Sunday from 10am till sunset. We are located only minutes away from the Low Rise Hotels, in front of Ling & Sons supermarket. More info: www.bushirikarting.com or look for us on TripAdvisor.

Headed by Kristof Steegmans:

WeTravel2 - Travel Without Limits introduced to Aruba

PALM BEACH - Following Kristof Steegmans' visit to the island of Aruba, safe, trendy and up-market travel package deals, will be made available for permanently or temporarily disabled travelers.

WeTravel2, headquartered in Heist-op-den-Berg, Belgium, and headed by Kristof Steegmans is making sure that the physically limited, and people who are wheelchair users, blind, deaf, or otherwise temporarily or permanently handicapped, can also travel to exotic destinations, Aruba among them.

Traveling he says is a great experience, and from an ethical and moral point of view he is motivated to try to achieve global mobility for everyone, going beyond lobbying to actually laying the groundwork to making Aruba and all its



wonders easily accessible. "I think that a lot of progress has already been made in this area. But the big issue remains: Individual travelers with disabilities still find it very hard to organize their own safe and comfortable trip.

As an avid individual traveler with a disability, I can speak from my own experiences!"

Injured on a holiday at the age of sixteen when he

dove to shallow water, and a paraplegic ever since, Kristof made it his mission to travel, despite the misfortune. His wheelchair did not stop him from going places, and now he is making arrangements around the globe to share that freedom to explore warm and far-off destinations with other individuals who share his condition.

On his recent visit to Aruba, Kristof met the local press at



Taste of Belgium Restaurant at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall and shared his knowledge with several tourist organizations stressing the need for information, and disability-friendly facilities. His company WeTravel2, is a new and trendy organization, based entirely upon his own experience with the goal of mapping the opportunities and offering them as package deals, starting with a lim-

ited but varied selection of four destinations: Aruba, Curacao, Kenya and Tenerife. At these destinations, WeTravel2 provides accessible hotels, customized transfers and excursions, medical tools and assistance, in collaboration with professional local partners. WeTravel2 offers travelers with temporary or permanent disabilities the necessary backup and logistics to travel without problems or limitations. Adapted transport, equipment rental, availability of medical assistance, accessible excursions, hotels, restaurants, attractions... these are the keys to valuable travel experiences. Pictured here Kristof at the press conference, explaining his vision to local partners and media. info@wetravel.eu | www.wetravel2.eu. □

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GRAND OPENING OF THE LUXURY BALLY BOUTIQUE



After decades, finally we have the luxury BALLY Brand back on the island! The official opening of the BALLY Boutique was truly a night to remember. The red carpet event was hosted for the new BALLY Boutique, at its new location in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. It was an absolute magical and elegant affair. The entrance had a beautifully lit, double archway in the bally red color decorated with lights and large shiny green leaved ficus trees. The theme of the opening was inspired on the vintage posters from the marketing campaigns that began in 1910 with relevant artists which began creating worldwide brand awareness and success. The area of the venue was converted into a vintage lounge completely decorated with crystal chandeliers in the style of the 1920's and 1930's, with hanging art from the most important Swiss, French and German artists of the modernist period. Since the founding of this luxury house in 1851 by the bally family, the brand has been very closely linked to the arts for decades. A variety of great lounge music played all night while the VIP guests mingled and sipped "Bellinis" and a variety of cocktails inspired on the 1920's. The famous Harry's bar of Venice Italy founded in 1923 was the source of inspiration for these famous "Bellinis" served to all the guests upon entering the venue. The delicious hors d'oeuvres and catering were all coordinated by Inge van Roon, Chef Gerard and a great staff from the Divi resorts. The Aruba Bally Boutique grand opening was honored in this special occasion by having the visit of Mr. Mimmo Marriotini who is the CEO Global Americas, Mr. Keith Barnett, the Director of Latin-America, and Mr. Adam Mccollum, the Director of Marketing. Mr. Marriotini, along with co-owners Kelly Alwani, George Valvis, and Manoj Alwani did the honors of the ribbon cutting ceremony. All invited guest left the party with great memories, big smiles and a specially designed Bally souvenir.



SPORTS**Aruba TODAY**

This is a 2014 photo of Kevin Cash of the Cleveland Indians baseball team. Cash was hired as the new manager of the Tampa Bay Rays on Friday, Dec. 5, 2014.

Rays select Kevin Cash as new mgr.

By FRED GOODALL

AP Sports Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)

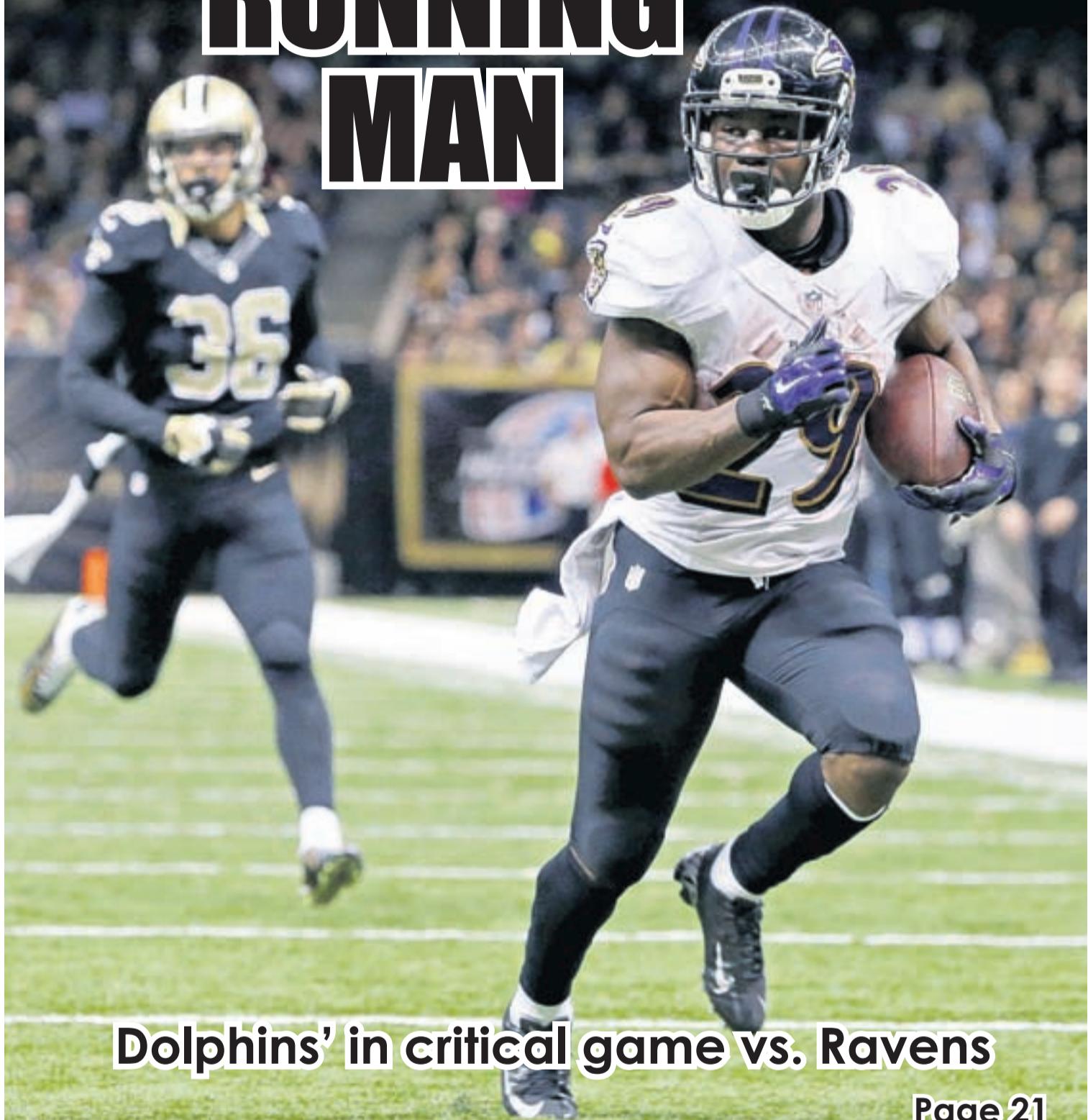
-- Kevin Cash is the new manager of the Tampa Bay Rays.

The team announced the former Cleveland Indians bullpen coach as Joe Maddon's replacement on Friday, selecting him over ex-Seattle Mariners manager and current Kansas City Royals bench coach Don Wakamatsu.

Cash, who turns 37 on Saturday, has no previous managerial experience. The former big-league catcher, who appeared in 13 games with Tampa Bay in 2005, served as Cleveland's bullpen coach for the past two seasons and becomes the youngest active manager in the majors.

Continued on Page 21

RUNNING MAN



Dolphins' in critical game vs. Ravens

Page 21

Baltimore Ravens running back Justin Forsett (29) carries for a touchdown ahead of New Orleans Saints defensive back Marcus Ball (36) in the second half of an NFL football game in New Orleans, Monday, Nov. 24, 2014.

Associated Press

30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 24TH - DECEMBER 19TH, 2014

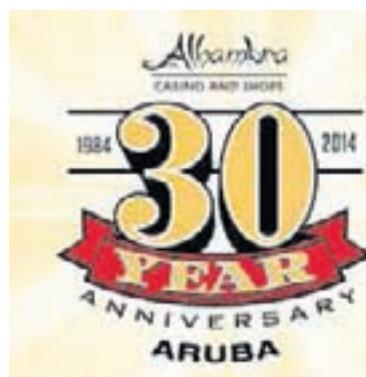
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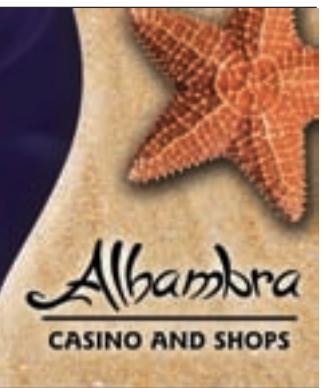


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NBA Capsules Warriors beat Pelicans for 11th straight win

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, California

(AP) — Stephen Curry had 19 points and a season-high 11 assists, Klay Thompson scored 23 points, and the Golden State Warriors beat the New Orleans Pelicans 112-85 on Thursday night for their 11th consecutive win.

Harrison Barnes added 17 points and 10 rebounds while Draymond Green had 14 points and 14 rebounds for Golden State, which improved to an NBA-best 16-2. The winning streak matches the longest in Warriors history. The 1971-72 team also won 11 straight.

Golden State needed a late burst to hold off Orlando and keep the streak going earlier this week. The Warriors also got off a slow start against New Orleans before pulling away behind a 20-4 run in the second quarter for their eighth consecutive win over the Pelicans.

Anthony Davis had his 12th double-double for New Orleans with 30 points and 15 rebounds. CAVALIERS 90, KNICKS 87

NEW YORK (AP) — Kyrie Irving scored a season-high 37 points, including a layup with 10 seconds left after a timeout he didn't seem to want, and Cleveland got its season-high fifth straight victory.

Irving carried the Cavs

most of the game before LeBron James had five straight points late that helped Cleveland pull it out. James finished with 19 points and 12 assists.

Carmelo Anthony ended a 4-for-19 night by missing a 3-pointer in the final seconds as the Knicks dropped their sixth straight and fell to 4-16.

Tim Hardaway Jr. added 20 points and Amare Stoudemire had 18 points and nine rebounds for the Knicks, who were trying to surprise the Cavs for the second time this season. TRAIL BLAZERS 88, PACERS 82

PORTRLAND, Ore. (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge had 18 points and 13 rebounds for this fourth straight double-double to help Portland win its third straight and 12th in its last 13.

Damian Lillard led all scorers with 23 points for the Blazers.

Rodney Stuckey had 16 points for the Pacers, who have lost three straight to open a four-game road trip.

The Pacers tied the score at 64 early in the fourth quarter, but Portland built a 75-66 lead after Nicolas Batum's 3-pointer and Lillard's jumper. Stuckey hit a jumper that pulled the Pacers within 83-80 with 53 second left, but they couldn't get any closer. □



Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) goes for a loose ball on the floor in the first half of an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden in New York, Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014.

Associated Press



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NFL Roundup

Murray, Romo lead Cowboys over Bears 41-28

ANDREW SELIGMAN

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Dallas' DeMarco Murray ran for a season-high 179 yards and a touchdown while quarterback Tony Romo threw for three scores as the Cowboys beat Chicago 41-28 on Thursday. The Cowboys (9-4) made it look easy for most of the night against a struggling team that lost star receiver Brandon Marshall to a rib injury. Dallas ensured it will finish the regular season with more wins than losses for the first time since 2009, but is looking for more, with an NFC East title and first playoff appearance in five years in sight.

Led by Romo and Murray, Dallas rebounded from a blowout loss to the Eagles on Thanksgiving and pulled within half a game of them in the standings with another meeting in

Philadelphia next week. The Cowboys took a 14-7 halftime lead and scored 21 unanswered in the third quarter before the

Romo, who has been bothered by a bad back, completed 21 of 26 passes for 205 yards.

Murray, the league's

downs.

For the Bears, Marshall's injury was another low in a disappointing season that will likely end with them missing the playoffs for the seventh time in eight years.

He was hurt taking a knee to the right side from the Cowboys' Barry Church following a reception in the second quarter. That happened moments after he made a spectacular 42-yard catch, juggling the ball with his right hand, to help set up a touchdown.

He stayed down for several minutes and gingerly walked off the field. He left Soldier Field in an ambulance, but later posted on Twitter, "Thanks for the Prayers... I'm Good."

Jay Cutler was 32 of 46 for 341 yards and two touchdowns, but the Bears had trouble sustaining any drives or stopping the

Cowboys.

They also did not get much from the run game, although they made a little more of an effort after managing just eight attempts in the loss at Detroit a week earlier.

Matt Forte had 13 carries for 26 yards after tying a career low with five rushes last week. Cowboys defensive tackle Josh Brent played for the first time this season after serving a 10-game suspension for his intoxication manslaughter conviction.

He hadn't played since Dec. 2, 2012, six days before the drunken-driving crash that killed teammate Jerry Brown. He was suspended the first 10 games and was inactive for two more.

The Bears were without kicker Robbie Gould (right thigh) and defensive tackle Jeremiah Ratliff (knee). □



Dallas Cowboys running back Joseph Randle (21) runs to the end zone for a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game against the Chicago Bears Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014, in Chicago.

Associated Press

Bears (5-8) rallied in the fourth.

With that, the Cowboys improved to a league-best 6-0 on the road this season.

leading rusher, carried 32 times. He also had 49 yards receiving. Dez Bryant had six receptions for 82 yards and Cole Beasley caught two touch-

NFL Preview

NFL begins final quarter with key games

BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

The Miami Dolphins have revealed a serious weakness in the last two weeks, after being gouged on the ground for 277 yards by the New York Jets and 201 yards by the Denver Broncos.

When the Baltimore Ravens go to Miami on Sunday, they probably should be thinking run, run, run. Yet their primary ball carrier, Justin Forsett, isn't carrying any such mindset.

"I don't want to fall into the trap of thinking this thing is going to be easy and we're going to be able to run all day," says Forsett, who has rushed for 1,009 yards and an NFL-leading average of 5.6 yards per carry. "They're a physical bunch, they're athletic, and they've got a lot of playmakers over there. I'm anticipating a tough game."

The Ravens' strength is the running game, and how Forsett fares easily could decide this one.

"They are going to gain some yards," Miami coach Joe Philbin says. "We have to tackle better."

Dolphins-Ravens is one of many intriguing matchups as the NFL schedule hits the final quarter with

26 teams still owning playoff hopes.

Both have 7-5 records and probably should be thinking wild card rather than division title.

The Indianapolis Colts will become the first team to secure a playoff spot with a win against the Cleveland Browns, and a Houston Texans loss against Jacksonville, which hands the Colts the AFC South title.

Indy has the league's top offense overall, led by Andrew Luck coming off a five-touchdown game against Washington.

Quarterback Brian Hoyer, who has put the Browns in position to make the playoffs for the first time since 2002, has held off hot-shot rookie Johnny Manziel to start again, but he must win without his most consistent wide receiver, playing behind a backup center, and with two rookie running backs who have had trouble holding onto the ball.

Houston comes off its best game of the season and one of the top offensive performances in franchise history, with 45 points and 457 yards against Tennessee. Ryan Fitzpatrick set a franchise record with six touchdown passes last week, and always fares well against Jacksonville.

The Seattle Seahawks have rediscovered the swaggering defense that led them to the NFL title last season, allowing a total of six points in the past two weeks. They are

and improving defense will offer a terrific test for the defending champions.

Even after their loss at Green Bay, from which they immediately flew



Miami Dolphins tight end Dion Sims (80) is tripped up by New York Jets inside linebacker David Harris (52) during the second quarter of an NFL football game, Monday, Dec. 1, 2014, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

ranked at the top again for stinginess, and also have the No. 1 rushing offense.

They go into Philadelphia, where the Eagles have won 10 in a row in the regular season. Philadelphia's balanced offense

to California rather than back to chilly New England, the Patriots own the AFC's top seed. The hosting San Diego Chargers represent the Patriots' biggest remaining challenge to keeping it. The Chargers have won

three straight, but quarterback Philip Rivers is 1-5 as a starter against the Patriots.

Denver welcomes the Buffalo Bills with a playoff-clinching scenario. It's complicated, as Denver needs to win and rely on five other results.

Both quarterbacks, Denver's Peyton Manning and Buffalo's Kyle Orton, have enough to worry about, especially sack-masters. Buffalo's Mario Williams has 12 sacks and Marcell Dareus has 10. Denver's Von Miller has 11 1/2 sacks and DeMarcus Ware has 10. The Bills lead the NFL with 48 sacks, and have a sack in 25 straight games.

Atlanta goes to Green Bay in their first Monday night meeting since 1971. Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers has thrown an NFL-record 360 straight passes at Lambeau Field without an interception, while the Falcons have 11 takeaways in the past four games and rank third in the NFL with 24 this season.

Week 14 began with Dallas beating Chicago 41-28. League rushing leader DeMarco Murray ran all over the Bears with 179 yards as the Cowboys improved to 6-0 on the road. □

Kevin Cash

Continued from Page 18

Veteran outfielder Raul Ibanez, who is still an active player, was the third finalist for the job. He withdrew his name from consideration this week.

Maddon opted out of his contract with Rays on Oct. 24, later joining the Chicago Cubs as their new manager.

Rays principal owner Stuart Sternberg said Cash's "energy and dynamic personality will fit seamlessly with our clubhouse."

President of baseball operations Matt Silverman, who led the search, echoed that sentiment.

"Kevin is passionate, genuine and dedicated, and those attributes will resonate throughout our clubhouse," Silverman said. "As a catcher, a scout and a coach, he has always been a student of the game, and his communication and tireless work will put our club in a position to win, night in and night out."

Wakamatsu was the only candidate among the finalists with prior managerial experience at any level, having gone 127-147 in one-plus season as the Mariners' skipper in 2009 and 2010.

Ibanez, 42, batted .167 with five homers and 26 RBIs in his 19th major league sea-

son and is still considered an active player appearing in 90 games with the Royals and Los Angeles Angels. He removed himself from consideration before a scheduled interview Thursday with Silverman, who's had a busy first six weeks as Andrew Friedman's successor as the Rays' top baseball executive.

A Tampa native, Cash is not a stranger to the AL East after playing all but 20 games of an eight-year big league career with the Toronto Blue Jays, Boston Red Sox, New York Yankees and Rays.

Before joining the Indians in 2013, Cash spent one season as a major league

advance scout for the Blue Jays.

Wakamatsu, 51, has spent 10 seasons as a bench coach with the Royals, Blue Jays, Oakland Athletics and Texas Rangers. The Mariners went 85-77 in 2009, but was fired in August of the following season when Seattle stumbled to a 42-70 start.

Former Rays bench coach Dave Martinez, one-time Indians manager Manny Acta, Hall of Famer Barry Larkin, San Francisco Giants bench coach Ron Wotus, Rays minor league manager Charlie Montoyo and ex-major league players Craig Counsell and Doug Glanville rounded out a list 10 initial candi-

dates for the job.

Madden opted out of the final year of his contract after Friedman left the Rays for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Tampa Bay went 754-705 in nine seasons under Maddon, making the playoffs four of the past seven seasons, winning two AL East championship and the 2008 AL pennant - all while operating under the constraints of one of baseball's lowest payrolls.

The Rays finished 77-85 this year, ending a stretch of six consecutive winning seasons. Maddon was under contract through 2015, but exercised an option to leave when talks on a new deal broke down. □

NHL Capsules

Predators beat Blues 4-3 in Martin Brodeur's debut

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Mike Ribeiro scored a goal and had two assists, and the Nashville Predators spoiled goalie Martin Brodeur's debut with the Blues by beating St. Louis 4-3 on Thursday night.

The 42-year-old Brodeur made 20 saves in his first start for a team other than the New Jersey Devils. The Blues signed the four-time Vezina Trophy winner on Tuesday, tapping the NHL's goalie leader in games, wins and shutouts to help while Brian Elliott sidelined by a knee injury.

Rookie Filip Forsberg had a goal and an assist, and Eric Nystrom and Colin Wilson each had a goal as Nashville improved to 11-1-1 at home. The Predators snapped a six-game skid to the Blues in Nashville and took the Central Division lead.

ISLANDERS 2, SENATORS 1
OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Jaroslav Halak made 20 saves in his franchise-record 11th straight victory, and the New York Islanders held off Ottawa.

Halak, 13-4 in his first season with the Islanders, broke the record held by Hall of Fame goalie Billy Smith, set in 1982. Halak has allowed



Nashville Predators center Mike Fisher (12) collides with St. Louis Blues right wing Vladimir Tarasenko (91), of Russia, in the third period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014, in Nashville, Tenn. The Predators won 4-3.

only 14 goals during his streak.

New York has won eight of nine and 13 of 15. Mika Zibanejad scored the lone goal for Ottawa, which has lost four straight. Former Senators captain Daniel Alfredsson, who announced his retirement Thursday morning, took part in the pregame warmup and bid his final farewell to a sold-out crowd of 20,511.

CANUCKS 3, PENGUINS 0
PITTSBURGH (AP) — Brad Richardson scored two goals and added an assist, and Eddie Lack posted his fifth NHL shutout to lift Vancouver to another road win.

The Canucks, in the midst of a season-high, seven-game trip, won their league-best 11th road game. Vancouver, which has won five of six overall,

Associated Press

beat the Penguins in Pittsburgh for the first time since Nov. 22, 2008.

Richardson scored his fifth and sixth goals, and Shawn Matthias also netted his sixth and added an assist for the Canucks, who hadn't defeated Pittsburgh anywhere in four years. Lack stopped 21 shots for his first shutout and second win of the season.

Thomas Greiss made 28 saves and took the loss in his first home start.

CAPITALS 2, HURRICANES 1
RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Eric Fehr scored with 4:02 remaining to lift Washington over Carolina.

Jay Beagle scored an early goal and Braden Holtby stopped 29 shots for the Capitals.

Washington, which had lost two in a row and four of five, moved back over .500 at 11-10-4. Alexander Semin scored his first goal of the season for the Hurricanes, who were trying to win two in a row for the first time since early November.

Fehr made the game-winning play by himself. He stole the puck from Riley Nash just inside the blue line, charged between the circles and snapped a shot past Anton Khudobin.

Khudobin made 26 saves for Carolina.

LIGHTNING 5, SABRES 0
TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Steven Stamkos had a goal and an assist during Tampa Bay's three-goal second period, Ben Bishop made 13 saves and the Lightning beat Buffalo.

Radko Gudas, Brenden Morrow, Jason Garrison and Brett Connolly had the other Tampa Bay goals. The Eastern Conference-leading Lightning improved to 5-0-1 in the last six games. Buffalo, which had won six of seven, went 22 1/2 minutes without a shot during one stretch.

RED WINGS 5, STARS 2
DETROIT (AP) — Kyle Quincey fired in a long slap shot for his first goal of the season, and the Detroit Red Wings went on to beat Dallas.

Quincey's drive beat goalie Jussi Rynnas 7:39 into the third period and gave Detroit a 4-2 lead. The Red Wings have won five of six. Darren Helm scored twice the Red Wings.

BLUE JACKETS 4, PANTHERS 3, SO

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Ryan Johansen scored the winning goal in a shootout to lift the Columbus Blue Jackets over Florida.

Boone Jenner, Cam Atkinson and Nick Foligno scored in regulation for Columbus and Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 52 shots. Nick Bjugstad had two goals and an assist for the Panthers. Tomas Fleischmann had a goal and had an assist and Roberto Luongo made 17 saves.

DEVILS 5, MAPLE LEAFS 3

TORONTO (AP) — Mike Cammalleri and Eric Gelinas scored power-play goals and the New Jersey Devils defeated Toronto.

The Maple Leafs had earned points in five straight games. They hadn't lost in regulation since a 9-2 rout by Nashville on Nov. 18.

Stephen Gionta, Steve Bernier and Adam Henrique had the other goals for New Jersey.

KINGS 4, COYOTES 0

GLendale, Ariz. (AP) — Dustin Brown had two goals and an assist, Martin Jones stopped 26 shots, and Los Angeles beat Arizona Coyotes for its second straight shutout and third in four games.

Two nights after Jonathan Quick stopped 31 shots against Boston, Jones extended the Kings' defensive mastery in his first start since blanking Minnesota on Nov. 26.

Alec Martinez had a goal and an assist a day after agreeing to a contract extension, and Jared Stoll added a power-play goal late in the second period.

Arizona goalie Mike Smith was yanked in another lackluster performance. The Coyotes have lost six straight home games for the first time since early 2009.

Matsuzaka returns to Japan to pitch for Softbank

FUKUOKA, Japan (AP) — Daisuke Matsuzaka has signed a contract with the Softbank Hawks of Japan's Pacific League after eight years in Major League Baseball.

The 34-year-old right-hander, who went 3-3 with 78 strikeouts and a 3.89 ERA for the New York Mets in 2014, led the Pacific League in wins three times with the Seibu Lions before signing a six-year, \$52 million contract with the Boston Red Sox in 2006.

"This is a very solid team," Matsuzaka said at a press conference. "I remember from my days pitching in Japan how difficult they

were to face. It should be a very enjoyable team to pitch for."

Terms of Matsuzaka's deal were not released.

In his first season in the majors, Matsuzaka helped Boston win the World Series in 2007. His best season was 2008, when he went 18-3 with 154 strikeouts and a 2.90 ERA but he didn't live up to expectations after that.

The Hawks won the Japan Series in 2014 and are among the more successful teams in Nippon Professional Baseball.

"As we look to win the championship again, we think he can make a ma-



Daisuke Matsuzaka attends a press conference at a hotel in Fukuoka, western Japan Friday, Dec. 5, 2014.

Associated Press

jor contribution," said Softbank chairman Sadaharu Oh.

Beacons pop up in stores ahead of holidays

MAE ANDERSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — From American Eagle to Apple Stores, beacons are popping up everywhere. Are they a shopper's best friend or another pesky Big Brother monitoring our every move?

The square or rectangular devices, smaller than a smartphone, can hang on a wall or be placed on a machine and communicate with your phone via Bluetooth signals. Accessed through apps you download to your smartphone, beacon technology can do everything from guide you to the correct airport terminal to turn on your coffee maker as you sleepily enter the kitchen. In retail, beacons aim to entice you to spend money. As you enter a store, your smartphone might light up with a sale alert. Stand in the dress section for a while and a coupon may pop up for something on a nearby hanger.

"The most important thing a shopper might need to get access to when they go into a store are ratings and reviews, coupons and promotions," said Erik McMillan, CEO of Shelfbucks, which is working with video game retailer GameStop and others on its beacon marketing. Beacons give



An undated photo provided by Swirl shows an in-store beacon in a retail store in Boston. Accessed through apps you download to your smartphone, beacon technology can do everything from guide you to the correct airport terminal to turn on your coffee maker.

Associated Press

customers that research right there in the store — when they have their wallets and are looking to buy. Macy's Inc. has installed beacons in all of its 840 department stores; other chains such as Kohl's are testing them in some locations. McMillan likens beacons to the early days of retail websites in the 1990s when "all of a sudden it got to the point that 'you can't not have a website'." He predicts the technology will skyrocket from the 50,000

beacons in use now to between 5 million and 10 million next year.

The vast majority of shopping is still done in stores. E-commerce is fast-growing but accounts for only about 9 percent of total retail sales, according to Forrester Research. Beacons merge in-store shopping with mobile access to information — and data shows they work.

Between July and September, 30 percent of shoppers who received a "push-

ad" from an in-store beacon used that offer to buy something, according to a survey by Swirl, a marketing technology company that has worked with retailers such as Lord & Taylor, Hudson's Bay, Alex and Ani, Kenneth Cole and Timberland to deploy beacons. Sixty percent of shoppers opened beacon-sent messages, and over half of those surveyed said they would do more holiday shopping at the stores as a result of their beacon experience.

Graham Uffelman, a 45-year-old New Yorker, said he bought Bluetooth headphones at Best Buy because of a deal he got via the Shopkick beacon marketing app.

"The app knew I was in the store and actually suggested a product I wanted," he said. "The experience was great but also a little unnerving in the sense that the store knew who I was and that I was present in their location. It felt a little Big Brother-like."

And that's the challenge. Not everyone is thrilled that a beacon app is monitoring them when they walk around with their cell phone. Outdoor advertising firm Titan drew such outcry last month when it installed beacons in phone

booths in New York the city had to take them out.

Eamon Bauman, 24, an IT systems administrator in Wisconsin, said he wouldn't let a store's app have access to his location even if it meant coupons or deals.

"It's providing retailers too much information about ourselves," he said. "If a retailer really wants to draw me into their store, showing me deals before I get to the mall is a better way."

Chloe Joslin, 22, a student in Jonesboro, Arkansas, was taken aback when she drove by a Walgreens and a notification on her phone from the Walgreens app popped up.

"The app never asked for permission to use location services and to my knowledge I had disabled them from almost every app to avoid such a situation," she said.

Because location settings can be different for individual apps, though, it can sometimes be difficult to disable all services. The pop-up likely resulted from the phone's location setting for nearby store notifications, said Walgreen Co. spokesman Phil Caruso in an email. He said customers can turn off notifications if they prefer not to receive them. Currently, the drug-store retailer is using beacon technology on a pilot basis in only a very small number of its Duane Reade stores.

Transparency is key, says Rob Murphy, Swirl's vice president of marketing.

"Now it's pretty standard if anybody is doing this type of marketing to specifically ask for permission," he said.

"You have to request an opt-in for location services and in-store push notifications."

"You can't be interruptive or intrusive, you have to be positive and helpful," said Alexis Rask, chief revenue officer of Shopkick, whose app is also used by teen retailer American Eagle to provide welcome messages, merchandise tips and styling guidance throughout its nearly 1,000 U.S. stores.

Alcoa touts step toward stronger aluminum for cars

DAVID KOENIG
Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Alcoa Inc. is touting a breakthrough in aluminum manufacturing that it says will give the lightweight metal a better chance to replace steel in car doors and fenders.

Alcoa says the process, still in the testing phase, will create metal sheets that are stronger and more easily shaped into auto body parts than current aluminum and are lighter than high-strength steel.

Company executives say

the aluminum-alloy material could show up in cars by 2018.

Alcoa said Thursday that it has conducted successful tests with automakers and has lined up one as a "strategic-development customer" for aluminum being produced at a pilot mill in San Antonio, Texas. Alcoa declined to name the other companies.

New York-based Alcoa has been shifting from mining and smelting aluminum to making products that can be shaped into parts for

autos and airplanes. It has made inroads in auto-making, where the use of aluminum has been growing for years to produce cars that are lighter and get better mileage.

Now Alcoa is taking aim at steel used in doors and fenders. It got a boost when one of its customers, Ford Motor Co., decided to make the 2015 model of its F-150 pickup with a body that is 97 percent aluminum. That shaved up to 700 pounds from the 5,000-pound truck.

Wall Street surges after solid jobs report

KEN SWEET
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A strong jobs report boosted U.S. and European stocks Friday, and leaving the Dow

other signs the economy is accelerating — could lead the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates sooner than anticipated.

Banks, whose profit mar-

its best winning streak in a year and in stark contrast to the near-correction in the market only a month-and-a-half ago.

"We continue to see this



Trader John Panin, left, uses a phone post as he works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, Dec. 5, 2014. U.S. stocks finished modestly higher after the government reported a surge in hiring last month.

Jones industrial average just short of the 18,000 mark.

The main focus in the markets was the monthly hiring numbers. The Labor Department said U.S. employers added 321,000 jobs last month, the biggest burst of hiring in nearly three years, while the unemployment rate remained steady at 5.8 percent.

Despite the good news, stock gains were restrained. Investors now expect the robust jobs growth — and

gains increase when interest rates rise, were among Friday's biggest gainers. Safety-focused utility stocks, which tend to perform poorly in an improving economy, were among the biggest decliners, along with energy companies, which were hurt once again as oil prices retreated.

With Friday's modest increases, the Standard & Poor's 500 index closed out a seventh-straight week of gains. The stretch was

steady drip into the equities markets, and I don't think it's going to stop any time soon," said David Kelly, chief global strategist for J.P. Morgan Funds.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 58.69 points, or 0.3 percent, to 17,958.79. The S&P 500 index rose 3.45 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,075.37. The Nasdaq composite rose 11.32 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,780.76. November's jobs report, as well as other positive economic data, could raise

expectations among investors that the Federal Reserve will soon start raising interest rates. Last month marks the 10th straight month of job gains above 200,000, and would put 2014 on track to be the best year for hiring since 1999.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury note climbed to 2.31 percent from 2.24 percent the day before as investors sold bonds in anticipation of higher rates.

"The bottom line is this was yet another very solid employment report and another strong data point reaffirming the strength of U.S. growth versus a sluggish global (economy)," Rick Rieder, chief investment officer of fundamental fixed income at BlackRock, wrote in a note to reporters. Investors like seeing a healthy U.S. economy, but are also aware that stock prices are higher partly because of ultra-low interest rates. If the Fed believes the U.S. economy is overheating, they would raise interest rates and it could cause stock prices to decline. Not all stocks would be losers in a higher interest rate environment. Bank stocks rose Friday, with JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo up 1 percent to 2.5 percent. Higher interest rates would allow banks to charge more for loans and would boost profits.□

Aer Lingus boss Mueller to head Malaysia Airlines

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's government said Friday it has picked Christoph Mueller, the chief executive of Ireland's Aer Lingus, as the new head of its beleaguered flag carrier, Malaysia Airlines.

He will be the first ever foreigner to head Malaysia Airlines, which was struggling with chronic financial problems before it was further hit this year by two deadly jet disasters.

State investment arm Khazanah Nasional, the parent company of Malaysia Airlines, said discussions are ongoing for Mueller to start work before his contract with Aer Lingus ends May 1 but "no earlier than March 1."

Khazanah in August announced a \$1.73 billion overhaul, which includes delisting the airline by year-end and cut 6,000 workers, or 30 percent, of its current workforce of 20,000.

Mueller will be the CEO of a new company that will be launched in July 2015 to take over the existing Malaysia Airlines business and its reduced staff under the revamp.

"It is imperative that we have the best available talent with the expertise and experience to help drive the progress of the restructuring effort further forward," Prime Minister Najib Razak said in a statement. "The government is committed to seeing through the complete overhaul of (the airline) to its successful conclusion."

Mueller has been CEO of Aer Lingus since 2009, helping to turn around the Irish airline within a year despite tepid market conditions.

Khazanah aims to restore Malaysia Airlines to profitability by the end of 2017 and then relist its shares on the stock exchange by the end of 2019.

The airline's business has suffered after a Malaysia Airlines jet with 239 people on board, mostly from China, went missing March 8 while en route to Beijing.□

Teen retailer Delia's to liquidate operations

NEW YORK (AP) — Delia's said Friday that it plans to liquidate its stores and file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

The company has struggled with weak sales for years and has not reported an annual profit since 2007. It announced in September that it was conducting a strategic review and said Friday that it is making these moves after being unable to find a merger partner, or get an acquisition or financing proposal.

Delia's, like many other teen retailers, has failed to thrive in a changing retail environment. Teenage shoppers are going to the mall less and when they do, are opting to shop instead at fast-fashion stores like H&M and Forever 21. The company is not alone in its troubles. Competitor Abercrombie & Fitch has tried to overhaul its business but reported earlier this week that its sales fell in its most recent quarter. And teen retailer Aeropostale Inc. announced

this week that its third-quarter loss widened on weaker sales.

Delia's, based in New York, said that it has entered a deal with Hilco Merchant Resources LLC and Gordon Brothers Retail Partners LLC to liquidate its merchandise, as well as dispose of certain furnishings, trade fixtures and equipment. Merchandise sales under the agreement may start as early as Friday. The company that it plans to seek the bankruptcy court's approval to

close all existing stores and distribution centers and to conduct store closing and going out of business sales. Delia's had 95 stores at the end of its most recent quarter, which concluded in August. It also sells clothes, shoes and accessories through its website and a catalog business. Shares of the company plunged 85 percent to 2 cents by midmorning. Its shares have lost nearly 89 percent of their value in the 12 months, based on Thursday's closing price.□

Crime and Punishment



CHARLES M. BLOW

© 2014 New York Times

One thing the grand jury decision in Ferguson, Missouri, has sent back to the surface is just how difficult it is to have cross-racial discussions about crime and punishment in this country. That is largely because perceptually and experientially, we live in vastly different worlds, worlds in which phrases like "bad choices," "personal responsibility" and "tailspin of culture" must battle for primacy with "structural inequality," "systemic bias" and "culture of oppression."

Let's begin to unpack this by pointing to what the data say about our distortions of perception when it comes to crime.

A September report by the Sentencing Project found that "white Americans overestimate the proportion of crime committed by people of color, and associate people of color with criminality." For some crimes, the overestimation was "by 20-30 percent."

This is particularly significant in light of the fact that Americans overestimate the presence of crime in general. As a Gallup report pointed out recently: "For more than a decade, Gallup has found the majority of Americans believing crime is up, although actual crime statistics have largely shown the crime rate continuing to come down from the highs in the 1990s and earlier."

If we continue to think that crime is up, data be damned, and we associate people of color with that crime, of course our concepts of guilt, innocence, veracity and compassion in encounters between police and people of color will be affected.

This is not to say that statistics don't tell us that crime rates are disproportionately high in minority neighborhoods, but rather than ascribe that to some racial pathology - and doing so is racist on its face - we must consider the intersection of race and concentrated poverty, which is attended by everything from poorer-performing schools to fewer job opportunities.

And these areas of concentrated poverty are growing, according to a July Brookings report: "As poverty increased and spread during the 2000s, the number of distressed neighborhoods in the United States - defined as census tracts with poverty rates of 40 percent or more - climbed by nearly three-quarters."

The report continued: "The pop-

ulation living in such neighborhoods grew by similar margins (76 percent, or 5 million people) to reach 11.6 million by 2008-2012."

Are people of color simply choosing to live in high-poverty, high-crime neighborhoods, or have these residential patterns been imposed by generations of discriminatory housing and employment practices, and been exacerbated by the Great Recession, which was disproportionately brutal for black people?

For instance, as a 2011 report of the Center for Responsible Lending said: "African-American and Latino borrowers are almost twice as likely to have been impacted by the crisis. Approximately one-quarter of all Latino and African-American borrowers have lost their home to foreclosure or are seriously delinquent, compared to just under 12 percent for white borrowers." When the police and justice systems become involved, more bias is introduced. First of all, as The Washington Post reported, "more than three-quarters of cities on which the Census Bureau has collected data have a police presence that's disproportionately white relative to the local population." This is the case even though 46 percent of whites and 56 percent of blacks in an August New York Times/CBS News poll thought that "the racial makeup of a community's police department should be similar to the racial makeup of that community as a whole." This continues, in part, because of a cycle of mistrust and abuse of power. As the International Business Times put it in August: "Law enforcement agencies, therefore, are often hard pressed to find black applicants. Recruiters want to fill their ranks with officers of all backgrounds, experts say, but cultural biases put them at a disadvantage."

Would you want to join a force that you saw as oppressive and discriminatory toward your community? For some, the answer may be yes, to effect change or just because they are so drawn to the profession. But obviously for many the answer is no.

The Times/CBS poll found that 45 percent of African-Americans, compared with just 7 percent of whites, believed they had experienced a specific instance of discrimination by the police because of their race. Thirty-one percent of whites even acknowledge that police in most neighborhoods are more likely to use deadly force against a black person.

This is not unfounded. Young blacks are significantly more likely than young whites to be arrested for things like drug usage although their usage is roughly the same as whites.

This conversation is hard because we are yelling across a canyon of disparity. Maybe the first thing to do is to work on filling the canyon, leveling the field - that will help bridge the gap. □



Being Bad Europeans



PAUL KRUGMAN

© 2014 New York Times

The U.S. economy finally seems to be climbing out of the deep hole it entered during the global financial crisis. Unfortunately, Europe, the other epicenter of crisis, can't say the same. Unemployment in the euro area is stalled at almost twice the U.S. level, while inflation is far below both the official target and outright deflation has become a looming risk.

Investors have taken notice:

European interest rates have plunged, with German long-term bonds yielding just 0.7 percent.

That's the kind of yield we used to associate with Japanese deflation, and markets are indeed

signaling that they expect Europe to experience its own lost decade.

Why is Europe in such dire straits? The conventional wisdom among European policymakers is that we're looking at the price of irresponsibility: some governments have failed to behave with the prudence a shared currency requires, choosing instead to pander to misguided voters and cling to failed economic doctrines. And if you ask me (and a number of other economists who have looked hard at the issue), this analysis is essentially right, except for one thing: They've got the identity of the bad actors wrong.

For the bad behavior at the core of Europe's slow-motion disaster isn't coming from Greece, or Italy, or France. It's coming from Germany.

I'm not denying that the Greek government behaved irresponsibly before the crisis, or that Italy has a big problem with stagnating productivity. But Greece is a small country whose fiscal mess is unique, while Italy's long-run problems aren't the source of Europe's deflationary downdraft. If you try to identify countries whose policies were way out of line before the crisis, have hurt Europe since the crisis, and refuse to learn from experience, everything points to Germany as the worst actor.

Consider, in particular, the comparison between Germany and France.

France gets a lot of bad press, with much talk in particular about its supposed loss in competitiveness. Such talk greatly exaggerates the reality; you'd never know from most media reports that France runs only a small trade deficit. Still, to the extent that there is an issue here, where does it come from? Has French competitiveness been eroded by excessive growth in costs and prices?

No, not at all. Since the euro came into existence in 1999, France's GDP deflator (the average price of French-produced goods and services) has risen 1.7 percent per year, while its unit labor costs have risen 1.9 percent annually. Both numbers are right in line with the European Central Bank's target of slightly under 2 percent inflation, and similar to what has happened in the United States. Germany, on the other hand, is way out of line, with price and labor-cost growth of 1 and 0.5 percent, respectively.

And it's not just France whose costs are just about where they ought to be. Spain saw rising costs and prices during the housing bubble, but at this point all the excess has been eliminated through years of crushing unemployment and wage restraint. Italian cost growth has arguably

been a bit too high, but it's not nearly as far out of line as Germany is on the low side.

In other words, to the extent that there's anything like a competitiveness problem in Europe, it's overwhelmingly caused by Germany's beggar-thy-neighbor policies, which are in effect exporting deflation to its neighbors. But what about debt? Isn't non-German Europe paying the price for past fiscal irresponsibility? Actually, that's a story about Greece and nobody else. And it's especially wrong in the case of France, which isn't facing a fiscal crisis at all; France can currently borrow long-term at a record low interest rate of less than 1 percent, only slightly above the German rate.

Yet European policymakers seem determined to blame the wrong countries and the wrong policies for their plight. True, the European Commission has floated a plan to stimulate the economy with public investment - but the public outlay is so tiny compared with the problem that the plan is almost a joke. And meanwhile, the commission is warning France, which has the lowest borrowing costs in its history, that it may face fines for not cutting its budget deficit enough.

What about resolving the problem of too little inflation in Germany? Very aggressive monetary policy might do the trick (although I wouldn't count on it), but German monetary officials are warning against such policies because they might let debtors off the hook.

What we're seeing, then, is the immensely destructive power of bad ideas. It's not entirely Germany's fault - Germany is a big player in Europe, but it's only able to impose deflationary policies because so much of the European elite has bought into the same false narrative. And you have to wonder what will cause reality to break in. □

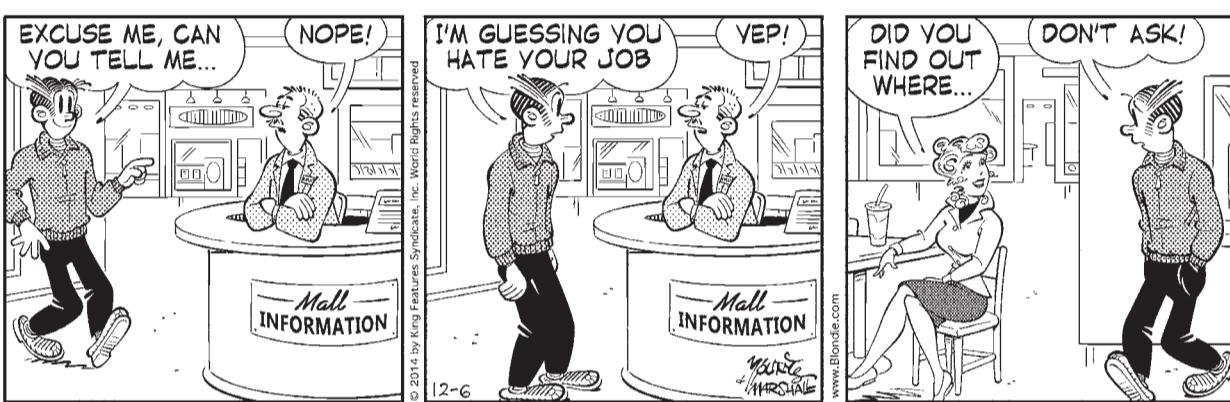
Mutts



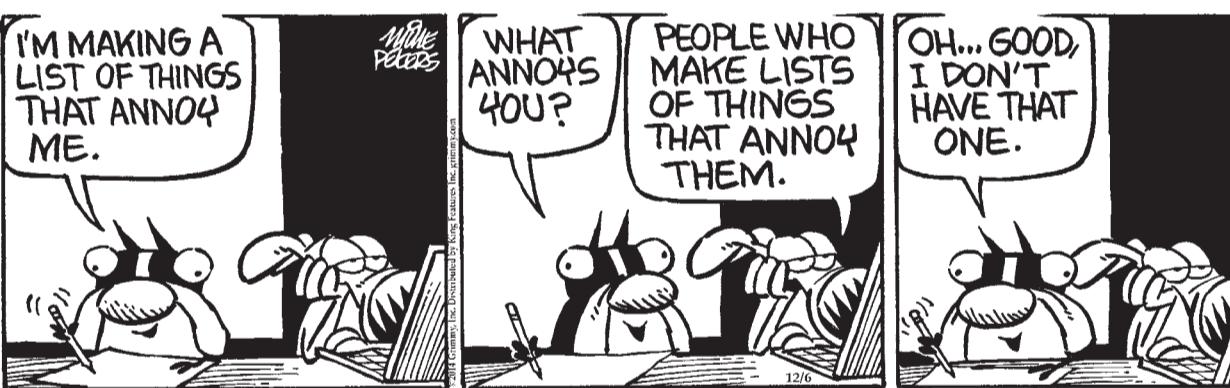
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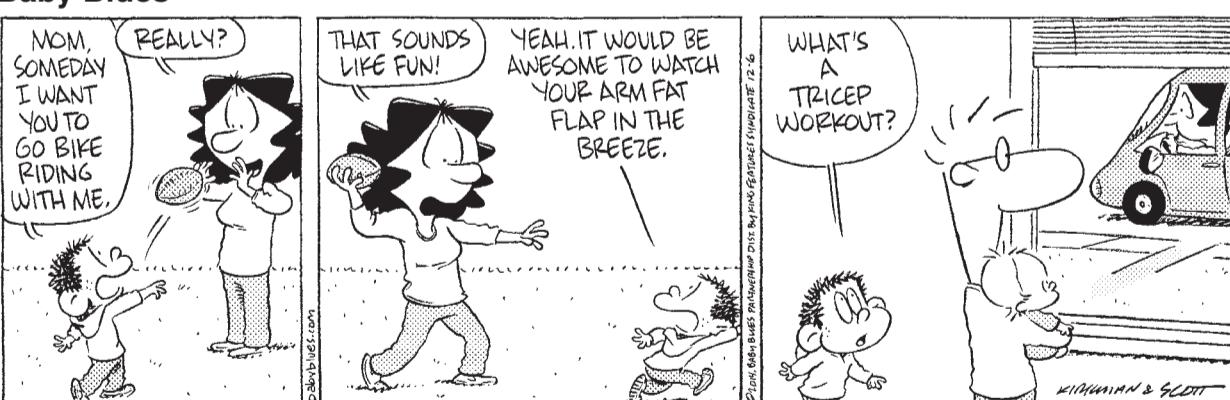
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

8	7		1									
1										9		
4		6	3	3	7							
	9		3	6	2	2						
8	3		1	5								
9		4	5							1		
	2									4		
	1								8	2		

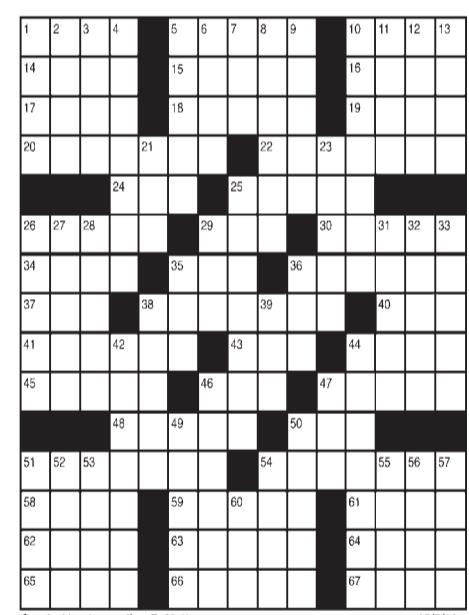
Difficulty Level ★★★★

12/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

8	6	2	3	7	9	5	1	4				
5	3	7	6	1	4	8	9	2				
4	1	9	8	2	5	7	3	6				
1	7	5	9	3	6	2	4	8				
3	8	6	7	4	2	1	5	9				
2	9	4	5	8	1	6	7	3				
7	2	1	4	9	8	3	6	5				
9	5	3	2	6	7	4	8	1				
6	4	8	1	5	3	9	2	7				

Yesterday's puzzle answer



ACROSS

1 Havana's land
5 No longer together
10 Bro and sis
14 Makes fun of
15 Roper's event
16 Hula __; 1950s twirling toy
17 __ and pans; cookware
18 Albert or Fisher
19 " Small World"
20 Junior naval officers
22 Tumbler
24 Yellow, Black, Red or Dead
25 Bread recipe verb
26 Gladden
29 __ and hers
30 Murders
34 Disarray
35 "Nowhere __", Beatles song
36 Entertain
37 Gif topper
38 Interferes
40 Embargo
41 Tooth coating
43 Staff; stick
44 Brief note
45 Of the kidneys
46 Congressman's title; abbr.
47 Back tooth
48 Sutured
50 Corn unit
51 Placards
54 Actor Pierce __
58 A single time
59 In a very unfriendly way
61 Flooring piece
62 Night twinkler
63 Dawn
64 Lawn trees
65 Actor Danza
66 Religious belief
67 Take a break

DOWN

1 __ of Good Hope
2 Come __; find
3 Wagers

Friday's Puzzle Solved

LOGE	USE	UP	AJAR
A	B	E	D
P	L	A	N
E	S	O	R
R	I	R	T
O	D	S	M
C	R	A	L
A	H	I	T
O	I	L	E
I	S	W	O
F	E	M	D
E	Z	E	N
S	E	C	O
K	E	S	N
R	T	T	T
S	K	I	I
E	L	D	S
T	E	A	P
A	R	T	E
R	U	T	T
S	E	U	I
E	T	T	I
E	Y	E	S
R	Y	D	A
O	Y	Y	C
Y	Y	Y	Y

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12/6/14

4 Helps
5 Sports building
6 Pea casings
7 Didn't __ up; made no sense
8 Rules; has power
9 See eye __; agree
10 Lively party
11 Tiny amount
12 Head honcho
13 Argument
21 " __ whiz!"
23 Creates
25 __ spirits; soul mates
26 Glowing coal fragment
27 Africa's Sierra

28 Egyptian dam
29 __ a ball; enjoyed oneself
31 Adhesive tag
32 Camel cousin
33 Hombre's title
35 Brooks or Tillis

36 Blushing
38 Wild brawl
39 Cut off
42 Expertise; know-how
44 Thug, often
46 Save from peril
47 Cow's remark
49 Watch's place

50 Burial chamber
51 Put on Twitter
52 Hold __; keep
53 Read quickly
54 Azure or navy
55 Long river
56 Charitable gift
57 Home of twigs
60 Traveler's stop

Zwarte Piet, a Case of Black and White

© 2014 Economist

The Dutch festival of Sinterklaas on Dec. 5, the country's most important children's holiday, is turning into an annual slugfest of racial politics.

The problem is the figure of Zwarte Piet, an impish clown with a black face who accompanies the bearded St. Nicholas ("Sinterklaas") on his rounds, distributing presents and biscuits. The character is derived from 17th-century paintings of Moorish slaves, and many Dutch with African ancestry find it offensive.

Most white Dutch fail to see the problem, and react angrily to accusations that their tradition is racist. The conflict plays out in the media, the schools, the courts and at Sinterklaas parades around the country, and it has fed into culture wars between Dutch liberals and anti-immigration populists such as Geert Wilders.

Opponents of the tradition thought that they had won a victory earlier this year, when a court ordered Amsterdam to bar Zwarte Piets from its Sinterklaas parade. A higher court reversed that decision last month, however. Amsterdam, with its leftist politics and large immigrant population, has taken a conciliatory approach, ordering some Piets merely to smear their faces to suggest they have climbed

down a chimney.

Many white Dutch use this just-so story to excuse the character's skin color, though it fails to explain his curly hair and thick, bright-red lips. Other liberal Dutch are switching to multicolored "rainbow Piets." In most Dutch towns, though, Zwarte Piet remains thoroughly blacked-up. At a Sinterklaas parade in the town of Gouda, protests by anti-Zwarte Piet activists led to 90 arrests.

The sharpest twist in the debate this year came from a Dutch documentary filmmaker, Sunny Bergman. For her film "Our Colonial Hangover," broadcast on Dec. 1 on national television, she dressed up as Zwarte Piet in East London, eliciting ridicule and anger from locals, including a flabbergasted Russell Brand. The film also stages an experiment in which three young men, one white, one black and one of Moroccan ethnicity, each nonchalantly try to smash a bicycle lock at midday in an Amsterdam park. Passers-by question the black and Arab men

and telephone the police, but assume that the white man has simply lost his key. Park employees even help him to cut the chain.

In a bicycle-mad country, the experiment has struck a nerve. It also has moved the discussion to the larger question of racial prejudice in Dutch society.

Other events have brought ethnic tensions to the fore. In September, prompted in part by worries about Dutch jihadis, Deputy Prime Minister Lodewijk Asscher announced heightened scrutiny of four Dutch Turkish organizations that he suspects hinder integration, including a religious group, Milli Gorus. Two Dutch Turkish MPs from Asscher's Labor Party harshly criticized the move, and in mid-November the party expelled them. Turkey's foreign ministry then issued a statement of concern over anti-Turkish "racism" in the Netherlands. That prompted a testy exchange between Prime Minister Mark Rutte and his Turkish counterpart, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.□

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24/7



NASA scrubs Orion launch; will try again Friday

MARIA DUNN

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — Wind gusts and sticky fuel valves conspired to keep NASA's new Orion spacecraft on the launch pad Thursday, delaying a crucial test flight meant to revitalize human exploration.

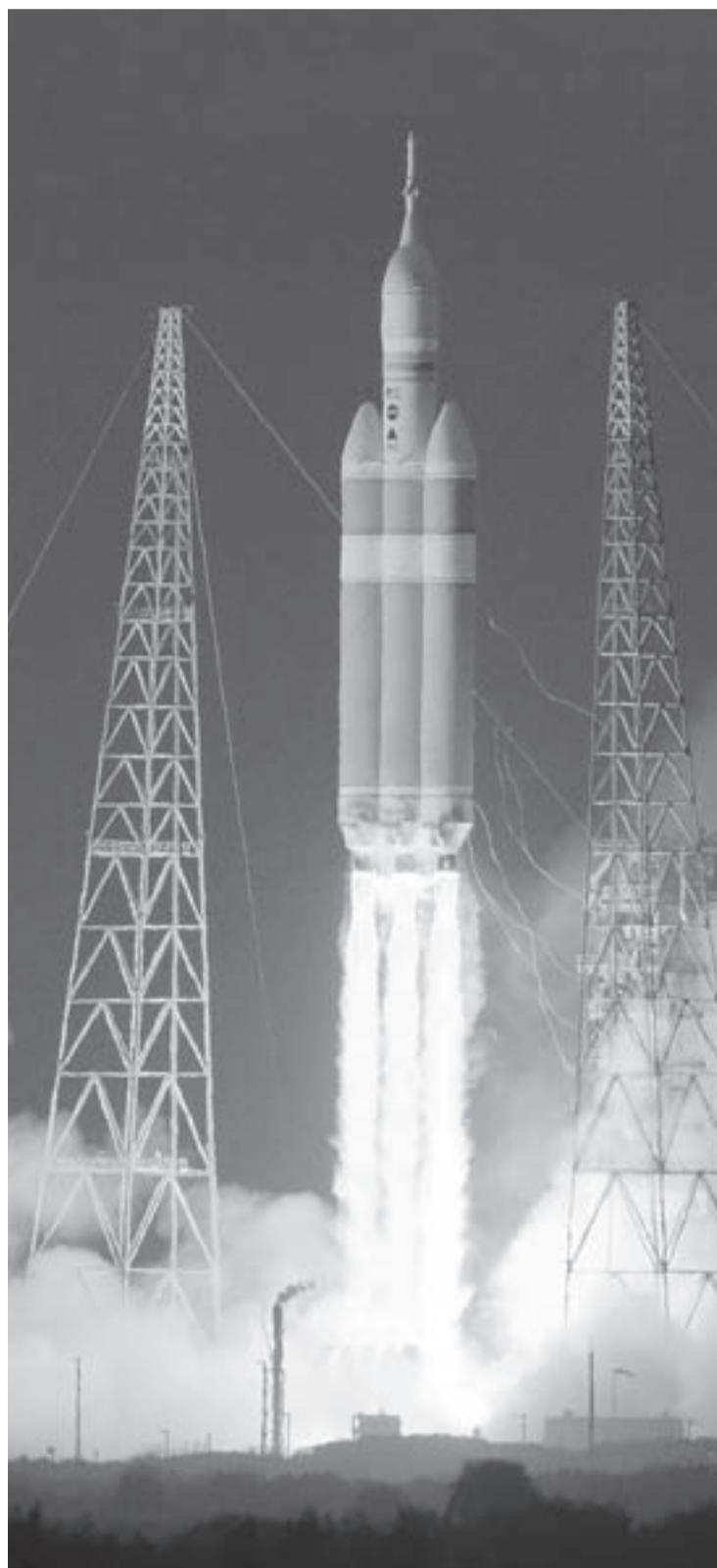
NASA promised to try again Friday morning, as tens of thousands of disappointed and weary launch guests hustled out.

"I'm running on no hours of sleep, zero, zero hours," said Sarah McNulty, a space educator who was helping NASA escort the several-hundred news media on hand. She said she'd be back again by sunrise, "bright and early." NASA's new countdown clock got a workout as problem after problem cropped up in the final four minutes, and the count switched back and forth. The space agency's new countdown clock got a workout as problem after problem cropped up in the final four minutes, and the count switched back and forth.

A stray boat in the launch-danger zone kicked things off badly. Then excessive wind twice halted the countdown, followed by valve trouble on the unmanned Delta IV rocket that could not be fixed in time. Declining battery power in the rocket's video camera system reinforced the decision to quit for the day.

"It was a roller coaster: We're going, we're not going," McNulty said. "But that's how the launch business is."

Orion is how NASA hopes to one day send astronauts to Mars. This inaugural flight, while just 4½ hours,



NASA's Orion spacecraft, atop a United Launch Alliance Delta 4-Heavy rocket, lifts off on its first unmanned orbital test flight from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station Friday, Dec. 5, 2014, in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Associated Press

will send the unmanned capsule 3,600 miles (5,800 kilometers) into space.

It's the first attempt to send a spacecraft capable of carrying humans beyond

a couple hundred miles of Earth since the Apollo moon program.

The ultimate goal, in the decades ahead, is to use Orion to carry people to

Mars and back.

An estimated 27,000 guests gathered for the historic send-off — roads leading into Kennedy Space Center were packed well before dawn — and the atmosphere was reminiscent of the shuttle-flying days. "Go Orion!!" urged a hotel billboard in nearby Cocoa Beach.

A Thursday launch would have been special for another reason: NASA launch commentator Mike Curie noted that it was the 16th anniversary of the launch of the first U.S. piece of the International Space Station, by shuttle Endeavour. "That was the beginning of the space station, and today is the dawn of Orion," he said.

Orion is aiming for two orbits on this inaugural run. On the second lap around the home planet, the spacecraft should reach a peak altitude of 3,600 miles, high enough to ensure a re-entry speed of 20,000 mph (32,200 kph) and an environment of 4,000 degrees (2,200 Celsius). Splashdown will be in the Pacific off the Mexican Baja coast, where Navy ships already are waiting.

NASA's Mission Control in Houston was all set to oversee the entire 4½-hour operation once the rocket was in flight. The flight program was loaded into Orion's computers well in advance, allowing the spacecraft to fly essentially on autopilot. Flight controllers could intervene in the event of an emergency breakdown.

The spacecraft is rigged with 1,200 sensors to gauge everything from heat to vibration to radiation. At 11 feet (3.4 meters) tall with a 16.5-foot (5-meter) base, Orion is bigger than the

old-time Apollo capsules and, obviously, more advanced. As NASA's program manager Mark Geyer noted, "The inside of the capsule is totally different." NASA deliberately kept astronauts off this first Orion.

Managers want to test the riskiest parts of the spacecraft — the heat shield, parachutes, various jettisoning components — before committing to a crew. The earliest Orion might carry passengers is 2021; asteroids are on the space agency's radar sometime in the 2020s and Mars, the grand prize, in the 2030s.

Lockheed Martin Corp., which is handling the \$370 million test flight for NASA, opted for the powerful Delta IV rocket this time around. Future Orion missions will rely on NASA's still-in-development megarocket known as SLS, or Space Launch System. The first Orion-SLS combo launch is targeted for 2018. NASA's last trip beyond low-Earth orbit in a vessel built for people was Apollo 17 in December 1972.

"It's a thrilling prospect when you think about actually exploring the solar system," space station commander Butch Wilmore said from orbit as the Orion countdown entered its final hour. "Who knows where it will take us, who knows where it will go. We'll find out as time goes forward, but this first step is a huge one."

NASA's new countdown clock got a workout Thursday morning. First a stray boat in the danger zone halted the countdown, then gusty winds held everything up with less than four minutes to go. A new launch time was set nearly an hour later, only to be held up again by winds. □

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Mark Wahlberg seeks pardon for 1988 assaults

WILLIAM J. KOLE
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP)—Marky Mark doesn't want a black mark any longer.

Mark Wahlberg is asking Massachusetts for a pardon for assaults he committed in 1988 when he was a troubled teenager in Boston, saying he has dedicated himself to becoming a better person in his adult years so he can be a role model to his children and others. The former rapper known as Marky Mark and star of movies including "The Departed" and "The Gambler," set to open in theaters Dec. 19, filed a pardon application with state officials Nov. 26. New England Cable News first reported on the application Thursday.

In 1988, when Wahlberg was 16, he hit a man in the

head with a wooden stick while trying to steal two cases of alcohol in front of a convenience store near his family's home in the Dorchester section of Boston, the application says. He punched another man in the face while trying to avoid police, the document says.

Wahlberg says in the application that he was high on marijuana and narcotics at the time, and police caught him with a small amount of pot. He also apologized for his actions. He ended up being convicted as an adult of assault and other charges, and he was sentenced to three months in jail. He said he was released after serving about 45 days.

Wahlberg, 43, says in the application that he turned his life around and became

a successful music artist, actor and film and television producer. He also notes he has raised millions of dollars for charity and donated his time and efforts for philanthropic causes.

"I have not engaged in philanthropic efforts in order to make people forget about my past," Wahlberg says in the application. "To the contrary, I want people to remember my past so that I can serve as an example of how lives can be turned around and how people can be redeemed."

"Rather than ignore or deny my troubled past, I have used the public spotlight to speak openly about the mistakes I made as a teenager so that others do not make those same mistakes," he says.

To get a pardon, the Massachusetts Parole Board



In this Nov. 10, 2014 file photo, Mark Wahlberg arrives at the 2014 AFI Fest - "The Gambler," in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

would have to review Wahlberg's case and make a recommendation to the governor, who has the ultimate authority to grant pardons. Calls to the board's offices went unanswered late Thursday. Pardons rarely are issued in Massachusetts. Gov. Deval Patrick, who's winding up eight years in office, has yet to approve a single one, nor did his predecessor, Mitt Romney. □

Sam Smith, Beyoncé up for 5 Grammys each

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — British newcomer Sam Smith and Beyoncé — the most nominated female in Grammy history — are the current leaders at the Grammy Awards with five each.

Smith and Beyoncé will likely earn nominations for album of the year, the top award, when The Recording Academy announces the nominees Friday night on "A Very GRAMMY Christmas" (9 p.m., CBS). Smith is the real leader so far: He's up for key awards such as best new artist and song and record of the year for his hit "Stay With Me."

Beyoncé, surprisingly, was not up for song or record of the year. Her nominations include best urban contemporary album for her fifth album as well as R&B song and R&B performance for "Drunk in Love." For song and record of the



In this Wed., Sept. 17, 2014 file photo, British soul singer Sam Smith poses for a portrait, in New York.

Associated Press

year, Smith's "Stay With Me" will battle Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off," Meghan Trainor's "All About That Bass" and Sia's "Chande-

lier."

Iggy Azalea's "Fancy" is nominated for record of the year, while Hozier's "Take Me to Church" is

up for song of the year, a songwriter's award. Azalea, the Australian newcomer, earned four nominations, including best rap

album for "The New Classic," best pop duo/group performance for "Fancy" and best new artist, pitting her and Smith against pop-rock trio HAIM, English band Bastille and country singer Brandy Clark.

Usher, Jack White, Miranda Lambert and Eric Church also earned four nominations each. Church and Lambert, both nominated in all four country categories, will compete for best country album, along with Clark, Dierks Bentley and Lee Ann Womack.

Sia, who also earned four nominations, had a breakthrough this year with "Chandelier" after writing songs for other singers, from Rihanna to Beyoncé to Katy Perry.

Smith's five nominations include best pop solo performance and pop vocal album for his debut, "In the Lonely Hour," one of the year's top-selling albums.

Continued on Next Page

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Sam Smith, Beyoncé

Continued from previous Page

The big-voiced singer will battle Ed Sheeran, Miley Cyrus, Ariana Grande, Katy Perry and Coldplay in the latter category.

Pharrell's "Happy" and John Legend's "All of Me," tunes that peaked at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 this year, were technically released before Grammy eligibility, so the singers submitted live renditions of the songs so they could be considered for awards. They didn't earn nominations in the top awards, but the hits will compete with "Stay With Me," "Shake It Off" and "All About That Bass" for best pop solo performance.

Pharrell earned three nominations, including best urban contemporary album for "G I R L," where he will battle Beyoncé's surprise album. The pop queen is also nominated for best surround sound album for "Beyoncé" and music film



In this Aug. 24, 2014 file photo, Beyoncé poses in the press room at the MTV Video Music Awards at The Forum in Inglewood, Calif. **Associated Press**

for her "On the Run" tour with Jay Z. Beyoncé has won 17 Grammys so far. U2's "Songs of Innocence,"

originally released for free to iTunes users, is up for best rock album. Other nominees include Beck, Tom

Petty & the Heartbreakers, Ryan Adams and the Black Keys. Lady Gaga and Tony Ben-

nett's duets album, "Cheek to Cheek," is nominated for best traditional pop vocal album. □

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and

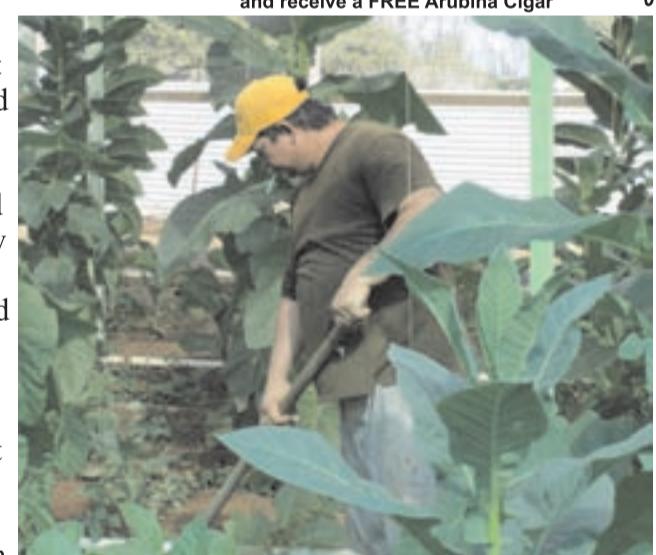
Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi's dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also

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